

Card Player THE POKER AUTHORITY

www.CardPlayer.com

Vol. 38/No. 19
September 17, 2025

PLUS

**PHIL GOLFOND
ON RUNNING IT
ONCE TWICE**
.....

**HALL OF FAME
JACK MCCLELLAND
PASSES AWAY**
.....

**DAVID BAKER:
DON'T PIGEONHOLE
SENIOR PLAYERS**



LEO MARGETS: FOCUS, BALANCE, AND PERSPECTIVE

After Historic Run, Spanish Pro Shakes Off Main Event Hangover





BAD BEAT JACKPOT

\$565,000

**Players won over \$565,000 in 2024,
Get ready to win even more in 2025 !**

 COINPOKER_TV  COINPOKER_OFF  COINPOKER  COINPOKEROFF

Play with Coinpoker anytime, anywhere. Please check with your local jurisdiction regarding the legality of online gaming.



IS ON NOW AND WE'VE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!

\$50 MILLION GTD SERIES

RUNS THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH.

USE REFERRAL CODE:

CPMAG

FOR ACR POKER'S INDUSTRY-LEADING

WELCOME BONUS
(100% UP TO \$2,000)





HERE'S JUST SOME OF THE REASONS TO PLAY IN THE OSS XL.

- Flagship series appeals to all player types.
- Two \$1.5 Million GTD tourneys left, plus a \$2 Million GTD.
- \$65,000 Leaderboard Contest paid by us.



ACRPOKER.EU



@ACR_POKER



@ACRPOKER



SUPPORT@ACRPOKER.EU

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



EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Julio Rodriguez
ART DIRECTOR Wendy McIntosh
MANAGING EDITOR Steve Schult
TOURNAMENT CONTENT MANAGER Erik Fast
DATA COORDINATOR Morgan Young
SENIOR STAFF WRITER Tim Fiorvanti
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Sean Chaffin, Ryan Lucchesi, Craig Tapscott, Paul Oresteen

CORPORATE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Koen Bongers
VP INTL. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Dominik Karelus
CONTROLLER/ ADVERTISING MANAGER Mary Hurbi
CASINO LIAISON OFFICER Jody Ivener
NATIONAL SALES MANAGER Barbara Rogers

SUBSCRIPTIONS/RENEWALS

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

CONTACT US

cardplayer@cardplayer.com
editor@cardplayer.com
sales@cardplayer.com
distribution@cardplayer.com
results@cardplayer.com
schedules@cardplayer.com

FOLLOW US

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cardplayer
Twitter: @CardPlayerMedia
Instagram: www.instagram.com/cardplayermedia/

Card Player (ISSN 1089-2044) is published biweekly by Card Player Media LLC, 1180 N Town Center Dr. Ste 100, Las Vegas, NV 89144. Annual subscriptions are \$39.95 U.S. (\$59.95 U.S. for two years), \$59.95 Canada, and \$75.95 International. Remit payment to CUSTOMER SERVICE, CARD PLAYER MAGAZINE, PO BOX 434, CONGERS, NY 10920-0434 or call 1-866-587-6537. Periodicals postage paid at Las Vegas, NV, and additional mailing offices USPS #022-483. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to CARD PLAYER MAGAZINE, PO BOX 434, CONGERS, NY 10920-0434.

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

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

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

Published and printed in the United States.



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

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

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



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

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

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



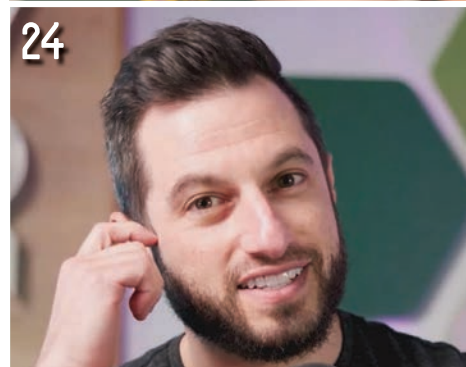
@POKERGO



14



20



24

© PokerGO / Miguel Cortes

© Phil Galfond

Features

14
Leo Targets: Focus, Balance, And Perspective
By Tim Fiorvanti

20
Poker Hall Of Famer, Pioneer Tournament Director Jack McClelland Passes Away
By Julio Rodriguez

24
Phil Galfond On Running It Once Twice
By Sean Chaffin

28
David Baker Reflects On Emotional Summer Of Poker
By Craig Tapscott

News

10
News From The Gambling World
By Card Player News Team

Tournaments

32
Jake Cody Headlines Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open Champions
By Card Player News Team

36
Circuit Update
By Card Player News Team

40
Leaderboard: England All-Time Money List
By Erik Fast

42
Circuit Results
By Card Player News Team

Strategy

48
Risking It All With Tens
By Jonathan Little

50
Punt Of The Day: Chip Leaders Collide
By Sam Greenwood

52
Spice Up Your Home Game: Badeucey And Badacey
By Kevin Haney

Commentary

54
Poker And Murder
By Scott J. Burnham

Also In This Issue

- 8** About Us
- 56** Tournament Schedules
- 58** Poker Glossary
- 60** Poker Odds
- 62** PokerCoaching.com Quiz: Force Them Out Or Keep Them In?
By Jonathan Little

Poker Hand Matchups

- 35** Justin Zaki vs. Jake Cody
- 46** Jake Cody vs. Stephen Song
- 49** Stephen Song vs. Jeremy Wien
- 51** Stephen Song vs. Jake Cody

Cover © PokerGO / Miguel Cortes

Turbocharge your wins with our Fast Fortune Games!
Play for prize pools of up to 12,000 times your buy-in
with Everygame Poker.



Use code **1500CP** for 50 free spins and Everygame Poker's leading welcome bonus of 300% up to \$1,500.



NEWS FROM THE GAMBLING WORLD

REPORT: AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION SAYS OFFSHORE BETTING OPERATORS ACCOUNT FOR ONE-THIRD OF U.S. MARKET

By Sean Chaffin

Casinos are prevalent across the U.S. and sports betting is legal in 39 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. However, offshore gambling sites are still thriving.

According to a report from the American Gaming Association, despite the increasing number of legal options, Americans still wager \$673.6 billion annually with unregulated gambling operators.

Since the AGA's last update in 2022, the use of unregulated online gambling sites actually grew 22%. This includes online casino games, the expanded use of unregulated "skill games," and sports betting sites.

The group says this diverts activity away from licensed operators. As a result, state governments miss out on funding for infrastructure, education, and public safety.

"Illegal gambling operators are thriving at the expense of American consumers, siphoning billions in tax revenue from state governments, and undercutting the efforts of the legal market," AGA President and CEO Bill Miller said. "It's time for a national crackdown on the pervasive illegal market that is draining state coffers and putting people at risk."

The report notes that growth in the legal market in recent years has kept the illegal market's share of total U.S. gaming revenue steady. Illegal operators continue to secure smaller shares of sports betting and online gaming revenue, but still account for almost one-third of the total U.S. market.

According to the report, offshore betting platforms and unregulated operators generated \$53 billion in revenue for 2024. In other words, state governments missed out on about \$15.3 billion worth of tax revenue.

The AGA says unregulated machines remain one of the fastest-growing threats to legal gaming. There are more than 625,000 machines in bars, restaurants, and convenience stores. That's a 7.7% increase since 2022.

Illegal online casino betting surged 38% over the last



three years. The number of players who play only on legal sites fell from 52% in 2022 to just 24% today. The share of players using both legal and illegal sites rose to 49%, nearly tripling.

Despite those numbers, illegal operators hold a smaller share of the total U.S. iGaming market than three years ago.

In the sports betting arena, the share of sports bettors using exclusively illegal sites fell by one-third since 2022. Illegal sportsbooks' share of the total U.S. sports betting market fell from 36% to 24%. But one in 10 bettors still wager exclusively with illegal operators.

"These bad actors operate in the shadows with zero consumer protections, no responsible gaming obligations, and no economic return to the communities they exploit," Miller said. "Combating them requires not only stronger U.S. enforcement, but also continuing to work closely with our international partners to shut down offshore operators and hold them accountable." ♠

Here's a look at the AGA estimates of the unregulated market:

Category	Estimated Handle	Estimated Revenue	Estimated State Gaming Tax Revenue Loss
Sports Betting (Including Bookies and offshore)	\$84 billion	\$5 billion	\$1 billion
Online Casino Games	\$466.2 billion	\$18.6 billion	\$4.8 billion
Unregulated machines in bars, taverns, etc.	\$123.4 billion	\$30.3 billion	\$9.5 billion
Total	\$673.6 billion	\$53.9 billion	\$15.3 billion

TRUMP SLUMP? VEGAS CASINO GETS RID OF LIVE DEALER GAMES

By Sean Chaffin



Gamblers at the Golden Gate Casino in Downtown Las Vegas will soon notice a significant change.

The property won't have humans dealing table games and gamblers won't get to handle actual cards. Instead, the Derek Stevens-owned casino is replacing live dealer games with electronic counterparts.

"Big changes are coming to the Golden Gate, and we couldn't be more excited," Stevens said in a statement. "As the oldest hotel in Las Vegas, we've always embraced the future, and now we're reimagining our casino floor with a high-energy electronic table games pit unlike anything downtown has seen."

Golden Gate will offer their currently displaced dealers roles at other properties owned by Stevens. Stevens owns Circa Resort & Casino and the D Las Vegas, both of which are also in the Downtown area.

The news comes as some in the industry are concerned about the link between Las Vegas gaming and tourism.

Nevada gaming and tourism numbers bounced back from some down months in June. On the other hand, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority reported an 11.3% drop in visitor volume for the month. Only

3.1 million tourists visited Sin City in June.

That followed drops of 7.8% in March, 5.1% in April, and 6.5% in May. That slowdown has been noticeable on the Las Vegas Strip this summer, according to those in the industry.

In the years following the pandemic, Nevada experienced record-high gaming revenue totals. However, gaming revenues are down 0.79% for the 2024 fiscal year, which concluded at the end of June.

"It's tough to put your finger on that," Caesars Entertainment CEO Tom Reeg recently told *KLAS* about the tough summer for Sin City. "This is kind of normal seasonality that we haven't seen in a while."

Caesars' Las Vegas revenue dropped 3.7% from April to June. The company reported second quarter gross revenue totals of nearly \$1.1 billion in 2024. But the company reported revenue totaling \$1.054 billion for the same quarter this year. The company's profit dipped from \$268 million in 2024 to \$212 million this year.

MGM Resorts also saw Vegas revenue decline 4% and other companies reported similar results. Explanations for the declining Las Vegas revenue stem from concerns about the loss

of international tourists during the Trump administration.

Ted Pappageorge, head of the Las Vegas Culinary Workers Union, called it the "Trump slump."

"If you tell the rest of the world they're not welcome, then they won't come," Pappageorge said.

Mayor Shelley Berkley echoed those sentiments, pointing out that Canadian tourism has dried up "to a drip" while adding that a number of Mexican high rollers are also staying away.

"They're not so keen on coming right now, and that seems to be the prevailing attitude internationally," Berkley said.

Other causes could be increased casino competition in other states and younger customers choosing other travel destinations.

The gambling tax provisions in the "One Big Beautiful Bill" will only hurt the situation next year. Stevens, who hosted President Trump in January at his casino, now says he believes the gambling-specific tax code changes will decimate the Las Vegas economy.

Some simply point to the increased price tag of a Las Vegas getaway in recent years. Rising costs like parking fees, resort fees, and other charges may simply be discouraging visitation. ♠



Delaware Online Poker Revived With BetRivers Launch

By Card Player News Team

BetRivers brought Delaware something it hadn't seen in more than a year. Online poker revenue.

According to numbers released by the Delaware Lottery, which oversees gambling in the state, BetRivers generated \$53,609 worth of taxable revenue in June. Despite cutting off nine operating days with a June 10 launch, the figure more than doubles the final month of revenue from 888poker.

888 left the state in late 2023 after losing the Delaware contract for online gambling. Rush Street Interactive, which owns and operates the BetRivers platform, won the contract and has seen some traction since relaunching a poker product.

The numbers point to a possible revenue of more than \$70,000 in a full month if the trend continues.

Delaware offers online casino games through the state's racetracks. Delaware Park was the top operator in June with 71% of the market share, generating \$38,080 worth of taxable revenue. Harrington Raceway took 7% of the market with \$3,941 in revenue and Bally's Dover clocked in at 22% with \$11,588.

BetRivers launched online poker in Pennsylvania last November. Then, the company added Michigan, Delaware, and West Virginia in June. Company representatives have hinted that a launch in New Jersey could come later in the year, which would make BetRivers the first online poker



platform covering five states.

Rush Street Interactive bought Phil Galfond's Run It Once online poker room in 2022. (p.24) BetRivers used that software for the BetRivers platform. Then, earlier this year the company signed Phil Hellmuth as a brand ambassador.

As a result, BetRivers leaned into the two titans of poker representing the site, including a promotional heads-up battle a couple months after their Pennsylvania launch.

Despite the increased revenue numbers, it's unclear whether the upward trend will continue in the coming months or if the surge was more about the lengthy absence of online poker in Delaware. However, Pennsylvania saw larger poker revenue numbers after it joined the Multi-State Internet Gaming Agreement in April. ♠

PROSECUTORS FILE EXPANDED INDICTMENT AGAINST POKER-PLAYING SUPREME COURT ATTORNEY

By Steve Schult

The high-stakes poker-playing attorney facing legal trouble from the government is now getting even more heat from the feds.

According to a *Reuters* report, prosecutors added new allegations to their case against Tom Goldstein. Goldstein is a high-powered attorney who has argued multiple cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Additionally, he is one of the co-founders of SCOTUSblog, which provides news and insights on the nation's highest court.

Goldstein was indicted in a federal court in Maryland last January on charges of tax evasion. Authorities allege he falsified tax returns, failed to pay taxes, and made false statements to two mortgage lenders concerning high-stakes poker winnings.

However, that's not all. Now, prosecutors claim Goldstein moved nearly \$1 million of his and his wife's money into a trust controlled by his law firm. They believe Goldstein moved the money to shield it from the Internal Revenue Service. As a result, the feds filed an expanded indictment



against Goldstein in August.

Additionally, authorities allege Goldstein offered cryptocurrency, student loan payments, and a \$10,000 bonus to a manager at his former firm. The offers were made in 2020 and 2021 to help "dissuade the firm manager from cooperating with the IRS's ongoing criminal investigation."

Goldstein entered a not guilty plea in January, and the new filing adds to the prosecutor's case against him. However, Goldstein doesn't face any new charges.

Poker fans are most likely familiar with Goldstein from his masked appearance on *Hustler Casino Live's Million Dollar Game*.

In 2024, Goldstein appeared on the stream but concealed his identity by wearing a hat, a face mask, and a hooded sweatshirt. He only went by "Thomas," and he went on to lose \$1.1 million over the course of the session.

En route to his seven-figure loss, he infamously mucked the best hand at showdown in a pot worth \$543,000. ♠

CoinPoker Launches ‘Creator Squad’ With Top Poker Influencers

Ryan Depaulo, Frankie C, And Corey Eyring Lead Online Poker Site’s Push Into Creator-Driven Content

By Card Player News Team



CoinPoker is taking a bold step into poker entertainment with the launch of its new Creator Squad, a collaboration featuring three of the game’s most dynamic influencers: Ryan Depaulo, Frankie C, and Corey Eyring.

With millions of views across YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok, the trio has built massive followings by capturing the excitement, unpredictability, and authenticity of modern poker, and bringing it to a new audience of potential players.

Now, under the CoinPoker banner, they’re uniting to redefine how the game is experienced online and beyond.

“We’re teaming up with top-tier talent to make poker more entertaining and more authentic than ever before,” said John Scanlon, COO at CoinPoker. “The Creator Squad marks a major step in building a creator-powered brand that resonates with today’s digital audience.”

Meet The Creators

Ryan Depaulo – Known as one of poker’s most unfiltered personalities, Depaulo initially made headlines by winning a *WSOP* bracelet while playing from his car in a New Jersey Whole Foods parking lot. His mix of self-deprecating humor, street smarts, and penchant for degen gambling has earned him cult-hero status among fans. Depaulo’s YouTube channel has become a hub for poker entertainment, with raw vlogs that capture both the glory and grind of the game.

Frankie C – A filmmaker at heart, Frankie has carved out a niche as poker’s resident storyteller. His vlogs go beyond hand histories, blending creative visuals, sharp editing, and cinematic flair to highlight the personalities, pressure, and joy behind every session. Frankie’s content has helped bridge the gap between casual audiences and hardcore poker fans, making the game feel more approachable.

Corey Eyring – A rising star who tells it like it is, Eyring has

quickly gained recognition for bringing an unpolished energy to the high-stakes scene. With an emphasis on the human side of poker, focusing on the adrenaline, tilt, and triumph of the game, Eyring’s clips and streams resonate with younger audiences who crave honesty over polish. His growing influence has positioned him as one of the next big names in poker media.

What Fans Can Expect

By partnering with influencers who live and breathe the game, CoinPoker aims to make poker more accessible, especially to younger audiences who consume the game through digital content rather than traditional broadcasts.

Fans can expect Creator Squad updates across YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and X in the coming weeks.

CoinPoker plans to roll out a wide variety of content from the Creator Squad, including:

- Fresh video formats showcasing online poker globally.
- Behind-the-scenes lifestyle coverage of professional and recreational players.
- Entertainment-driven narratives that spotlight the highs and lows of the game.

About CoinPoker

CoinPoker hosts more than 100,000 registered players and offers generous promotions, including a 150% welcome bonus up to \$2,000, 33% weekly rakeback, and \$12,000 in daily 4-hour cash game leaderboards.

Since its launch in 2017, CoinPoker has positioned itself as a community-driven online poker platform powered by blockchain technology. The company has consistently emphasized security, transparency, and a player-first philosophy.

The site’s flagship events, the *Crypto Series of Online Poker (CSOP)* and the *Cash Game World Championship (CGWC)*, have already attracted thousands of players worldwide. ♠

LEO MARGETS: FOCUS, BALANCE, AND PERSPECTIVE

After Historic Run, Spanish Pro Shakes Off Main Event Hangover

By Tim Fiorvanti



At the highest levels of performance and competition, the very best players step up and ‘lock in’ when the moment gets big.

‘Locking in’ manifests in many ways, depending on the environment and conditions, but there are common themes. It often comes down to tunnel vision, shutting out all distractions to hyperfocus on a rare opportunity for greatness.

For Leo Margets, it happened on day 6 of the 2025 *World Series of Poker* main event. On the cusp of her 42nd birthday, the Spanish poker pro found herself in a familiar position. Sixteen years prior, Margets reached day 8 of the 2009 *WSOP* main event and the final three tables before bowing out in 27th place. Back then, she wasn’t even sure how big a role poker would play in her future.

Margets is in a drastically different place in her life and career in 2025. She’s now a *WSOP* bracelet winner and a successful, long-time sponsored pro for one of the biggest online poker sites in Europe, Winamax.

This time around, she was prepared. She knew how bright the lights would be and how to handle the extra attention, especially as the last woman in the field. There was a tremendous outpouring of support through social media, but also an added external pressure to do what no woman had done since 1995 – make the *WSOP* main event final table.

A Place In Poker History

And so, with a second bite at the apple, Margets locked in. She focused on everything she could control at the table, and blocked out as much of the outside noise as she could.

“I was super disconnected with what was happening while I was in Vegas, which ended up being very good for me,” said Margets. “After day 6, I switched off my phone, not entirely, but I was not getting onto social networks. I was hardly answering messages, because I was so focused, and I knew that was going to be better for me.”

Her run continued through day 7, officially pushing Margets the furthest she’d been in the *WSOP* main event. One day of poker separated her from poker’s promised land, and her own personal chunk of poker history. The drum beat of support grew louder on both the virtual and physical rail, and every poker media outlet covering the event was well aware of what was at stake.

But with the exception of a small group of friendly and familiar faces, Margets kept the circle tight. She says their love and support played a key part in feeling grounded.

“I was lucky enough to have my rail there,” said Margets. “Not just poker buddies, but true friends in my life. After day 6 or 7, they stopped playing anything else themselves, and they were just there for me, all day. Sharing that with them amplified the experience so much. I think we all have people in our lives that love us, but it’s not guaranteed that

© PokerGO/Miguel Cortes



life is going to put us in a spot where the people that love us can show their love and support so deeply.”

By the end of day 8, it was clear that Margets’ choices were paying off. She’d made the final table, joining Barbara Enright in 1995 as the only two women to ever accomplish the feat, and locked up a seven-figure payday, far and away her best live result. An opportunity at \$10 million and the most coveted title in poker sat tantalizingly close, within Margets’ reach.

The messages of support became a deluge, and the excitement of the poker world spilled over. But Margets’ blinders held strong as she dreamed of finishing the job, and winning the whole damn thing. That’s not to say that Margets was unaware of her surroundings beyond her immediate circle. In every idle moment, she was taking in the energy of the room.

“It was the most amazing experience of my life,” Margets said. “Not just professionally, but overall, because of the intensity of everything I lived through. I could feel the support there, just walking around at Paris, whenever someone crossed my path.”

The dream ended in seventh place, in one dramatic run-out. In a battle of the blinds, Margets limp-called off her stack with A♥ 10♥, and faced off against Kenny Hallaert’s 6♥ 6♠. The J♥ 7♠ 5♠ flop was clean for Hallaert, but the assembled crowd erupted as the A♠ landed on the turn. It wasn’t just Margets’ friends and family, but the otherwise neutral audience members as well. As popular as Hallaert is on the circuit, nobody wanted to see Margets go.

Margets was one card away from a double-up that would have had her in the thick of things with seven players left, but the 9♠ on the river gave Hallaert a flush.

“I didn’t see it, but my friends told me that when the

spade hit the river. The whole room was crazy, shouting,” said Margets. “And, I mean, that is so nice, right? While all of this was happening, I could feel people rooting for me. Feeling the vibe that they want you to do well, it was very nice.”

She settled for seventh place, and \$1.5 million. Coincidentally, A♥ 10♥ was a key hand in the end of Margets’ first deep run as well, as it was the hand held by Warren Zackey when he eliminated Margets back in 2009.

The Come Down

In the moments after she walked away from the set in 2025, a lot of thoughts and emotions hit her all at once. And there was the inevitable exhaustion. It was a surreal, double-edged experience. Margets became aware of just how many supporters she had unknowingly gathered along the way, all the while experiencing the physical and psychological aftermath of nine straight days of increasingly intense poker.

“I wasn’t that aware of how big the whole buzz about my deep run was, beyond that room,” said Margets. “And then, the whole adventure was over, and I started to become more aware of the impact. Obviously, you are in an incredible spot when you are at the final table. I wish I had been able to go a bit farther, but fortunately, I had no regrets. It was strange, because I was super happy.”

“And then all of a sudden, I couldn’t find myself,” Margets continued. “I felt an emotional hangover. I was getting a lot of attention and interview requests, and it made me happy to remember and describe my experience. But at the same time, I felt like I also needed to disconnect from it.”

Margets is a creature of habit when she steps out of the poker spotlight, but she found it incredibly difficult to do even the most simple of tasks after returning home.



“I usually like my routine a lot, and all of a sudden I went back home and everything was hard,” said Margets. “I think there’s probably a physiological explanation. You are so high on dopamine for 10 days, and the goals are so clear. You just need to focus on one thing, which is play every hand the best you can, and then all of a sudden, it’s over.”

“I love training, and it was hard. I love reading, and it was hard,” said Margets. “I was not even enjoying chatting to people. Eventually, I gave myself license to be like this for a little while. I let myself experience this kind of emptiness that you feel after you’ve been ultra-hyper focused on one goal. And after a few weeks, it’s getting better.”

A Massive Success, By Any Measure

With the fog slowly lifting, Margets has largely returned to her regular day-to-day. For most people who make the WSOP main event final table, the money offers an opportunity to reshape a career.

Had this final table run happened earlier on in her career, Margets may well have been flooded with ideas of how to spend the money and alter the course of her life. But at this point, the result and the cash that comes with it are simply a luxury to build upon a solid foundation that Margets has already built.

“I think I’m very lucky, because it was a good amount of money, but my life is the same,” said Margets. “There is nothing I was not doing that I’m going to do now. It is what it is. I don’t need much to be super happy and to have the life I want.”

Even if she’d never made a second WSOP main event run, Margets was already well-positioned in poker. She’s enshrined in the Spanish Poker Hall of Fame, and her sponsorship agreement with Winamax has carried on for seven-and-a-half years, to date. In terms of her growth,

Margets lays a significant amount of credit to the work she’s been able to do within that organization.

“Having a sponsor in this world is a luxury,” said Margets. “It’s not that they give me a present with no strings. When a brand sponsors someone, it’s because they think it’s worth it. But poker is such a lonely skill game, and I think it would be accurate to say that with Winamax, it feels so much like a family. I don’t want to ever change that. I probably should not say that, because my potential to negotiate will decrease. But they know already.”

“We are a real team,” she added. “Every time one of us has a deep run, we support each other. It’s incredible being able to chat and see different ways of thinking from some of the best players in the world.”

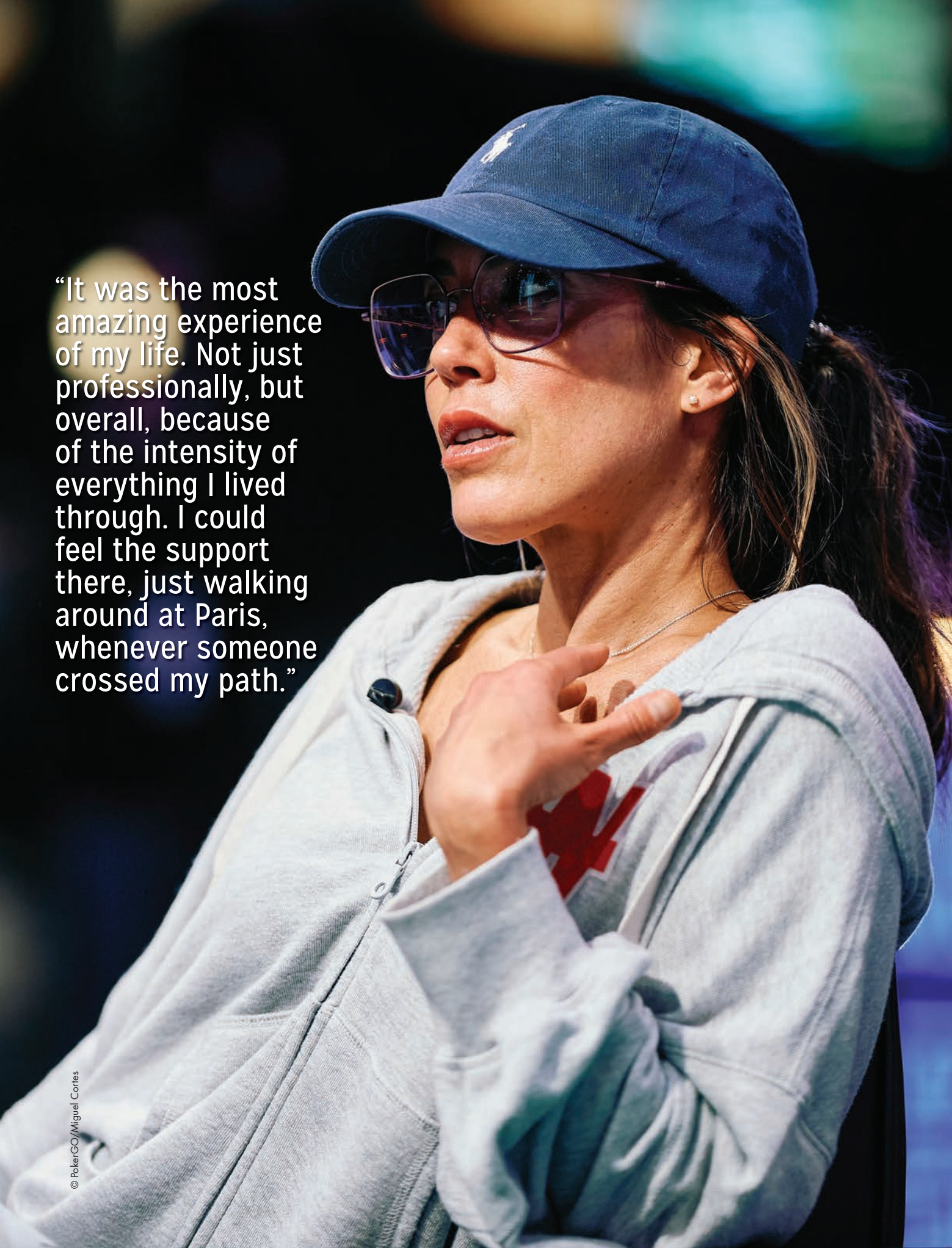
Fulfilling Interests Beyond Poker

While Margets plays a significant amount of poker every year, the flexibility that being a poker pro allows her to have is also crucial to how she balances her life. But Margets has also had the chance to take some big swings. She’s had the opportunity to write a book (*Play Your Cards Well*, 2017), and starred in two separate reality competition shows in Spain.

The first, *Supervivientes*, the Spanish version of *Survivor*, didn’t work out so well in 2014.

“In Spain, *Survivor* airs on a channel that is all about gossip and stuff,” said Margets. “I did it, and I played horribly. I went there thinking I wanted to win, but then I realized that if you wanted to win, you had to share a lot of intimate life stuff, content, and things that I was not going to do. I could have played better, but I learned a lot.”

A decade later, Margets found redemption in a show and format that played far better to her strengths - *The Traitors*.



“It was the most amazing experience of my life. Not just professionally, but overall, because of the intensity of everything I lived through. I could feel the support there, just walking around at Paris, whenever someone crossed my path.”



“I did *Traitors*, and that was the best show in the world. That was my show,” said Margets. “I had the time of my life. I think any poker player can thrive in *Traitors*, it’s basically like playing [the game] *Werewolf* in real life for 12 days.”

Margets won that first season of *The Traitors* in Spain, along with her teammate, Joana Pastrana Gallardo.

What Comes Next In Poker

While any future TV appearances beyond poker remain a possibility, there’s no doubt as to what Margets brings to the table in her primary profession. She has over \$3.3 million in career tournament earnings since breaking onto the scene in 2009, and proved herself more than capable of competing against some of the best tournament poker players in the world.

With this newfound \$1.5 million windfall, some players might take it as a sign to step up the buy-in and level of competition to test themselves. But as in most other aspects

of her life, Margets has a healthy perspective of where she stands, and where she wants to be.

“I’m not going to play a lot higher,” said Margets. “I don’t intend to just jump into *Triton* or anything like that. This is a nice bankroll addition, but we are all in poker for different reasons. I’m super competitive, but the main reason I love poker is because it gives me freedom. I’ve found a way to integrate poker in my life, to use poker so that I can have the life I want. I know that if I wanted to play something bigger, I would have to put an unbelievable amount of time into my game to be competitive against those fields.”

“Something itches inside, because I am competitive, and a part of me would like to do that,” Margets continued. “But realistically, I like my life the way it is now. I found an equilibrium where I put enough time in that I feel I am responsible enough with my level of competition and the amount of poker I play.” ♠



Last Woman Standing - WSOP Main Event

Year	Player	Finish	Payout
1986	Wendee Eolis	25	\$10,000
1993	Marsha Waggoner	19	\$12,000
1994	Barbara Samuelson	10	\$26,880
1995	Barbara Enright	5	\$114,180
1996	Lucy Rokach	26	\$19,500
1997	Marsha Waggoner	12	\$33,920
1998	Susie Isaacs	10	\$40,000
2000	Annie Duke	10	\$52,160
2003	Annie Duke	47	\$20,000
2004	Rose Richie	98	\$20,000
2005	Tiffany Williamson	15	\$400,000
2006	Sabyl Cohen-Landrum	56	\$123,699
2007	Maria Ho	38	\$237,865
2008	Tiffany Michelle	17	\$334,534
2009	Leo Margets	27	\$352,832

2010	Breeze Zuckerman	121	\$57,102
2011	Erika Moutinho	29	\$242,636
2012	Gaelle Baumann	10	\$590,442
2013	Jackie Glazier	31	\$229,281
2014	Maria Ho	77	\$85,812
2015	Kelly Minkin	29	\$211,821
2016	Gaelle Baumann	102	\$49,108
2017	Yuan-Yuan Li	105	\$53,247
2018	Kelly Minkin	50	\$156,265
2019	Jill Bryant	116	\$59,295
2020	Maria Ho	22	\$35,194
2021	Dragana Lim	64	\$95,700
2022	Efthymia Litsou	18	\$323,100
2023	Estelle Cohuet	68	\$130,300
2024	Kristen Foxen	13	\$600,000
2025	Leo Margets	7	\$1,500,000

*Although the first *WSOP* was held in 1970, it wasn't until 1978 that Barbara Freer broke the gender barrier. She was eventually joined by fellow pioneers Betty Carey and Colette Doherty, but it wasn't until Wendee Eolis in 1986 when a woman first made the money.

JACK MCCLELLAND

POKER HALL OF FAMER AND PIONEERING TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR PASSES AWAY

McClelland Had Prolific Career As One Of Poker Industry's Most Respected Figures

By Julio Rodriguez



The poker world lost a giant of the industry with the recent passing of Hall of Famer and longtime Tournament Director Jack McClelland. He was 74.

McClelland spent more than three decades as one of the most respected figures in the game, running big buy-in tournaments all over the world.

The Ohio native was in charge of the *World Series of Poker* for most of the 80's and 90's, and made Bellagio in Las Vegas one of the flagship casinos of the *World Poker Tour* from 2002 until he retired in late 2013.

Poker Beginnings

Although McClelland was introduced to the game at a very early age, learning stud from his grandmother and even organizing his own games in high school and college, his original ambition was bowling.

In 1976, he moved from Ohio to Las Vegas to take care of his ailing mother while bowling in the occasional tour event. But it wasn't paying the

bill. As he put it, he was "just good enough to stay broke."

"While I was [in Vegas] I wanted to get into the casino business," he recalled to *Card Player* in 2013. "Back then they didn't have any dealing schools for poker, so I signed up for a blackjack school. They made up their mind to hire the three pretty girls on the first day and just tried to bore the rest of us in to quitting, which I did."

"At the time I was a semi-professional bowler, playing in a few tour and regional events. I ran into a guy who was a dealer at the Sahara, and he had me go see his boss."

"I got real good," he admitted to the *Card Player* Poker Stories Podcast back in 2019. "The faster you deal, the better you deal, the more money you make. Plus, there was a lot of heat back there because the Sahara had the high-limit games. So, you either got good or you got out. After about 18 months I was promoted to shift manager."

That unexpected detour into dealing would become the start of a decades-long career shaping the biggest stages in poker.

World Series Of Poker Era

McClelland would eventually leave that job to play poker professionally, but it wasn't long before fellow Hall of Famer Eric Drache called him up to run a shift at the *World Series of Poker* at Binion's.

In 1984, he was promoted to Tournament Director, a role he would hold until 1998. This was long before the days of the Tournament Director's Association with standardized rules.

"Back in 1984 you just started a tournament with a quick shuffle up and deal, and as it went along something would come up, someone would try to shoot an angle or something and you'd have to make a ruling," McClelland said. "There were thousands of them, and one of you, and it was hard to stay ahead of them."

© World Poker Tour



During his time at the helm, McClelland oversaw legendary championships such as Johnny Chan's back-to-back titles in 1987 and 1988, which later earned him a cameo in the movie *Rounders*.

The next year he bore witness to the birth of the 'Poker Brat' Phil Hellmuth, who denied Chan his three-peat. That same summer, he was forced to give a tournament penalty to his wife Alma, who would go on to win the Ladies Championship.

"After the final hand, she looked over and said, 'Jack Binion, you owe me a bracelet!'"

He was also there to pay out Russ Hamilton's weight in silver in 1994, and standing tableside announcing all the action to a crowd gathered on Fremont Street for Stu Ungar's third main event title in 1997.

The very next year, he was right in the thick of it again, relaying the infamous hand where Scotty Nguyen declared, "You call, it's gonna be all over, baby!"

Global Influence On The Game

Although he enjoyed the operations side of poker, there were times in his life when he preferred to play. McClelland once told *Card Player* about a \$300-\$600 stud game against Larry Flynt and Sarge Ferris that essentially ended his playing career.

"I got three rolled up kings... Sarge started out with deuce, jack, ace of diamonds... and made three aces. It was like a \$30,000 pot! So that was a bad trip. We went home and I said, 'I'm going to go look for a job.'"

When it came to his career as a Tournament Director, only a handful of others have been as prolific. McClelland not only ran the big show at the *WSOP*, but also the *Grand Prix of Poker* at the Golden Nugget, the *U.S. Poker Open* for Donald Trump in Atlantic City, and the very first tournaments ever held at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut. He also spent a decade running events for the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles.

"Since I played and dealt, I understood both sides of the table. I understand the emotion of the players when they lose a big pot or the dealers when a player is throwing cards at them. I came up with the penalty rule to help protect dealers from abuse."

"You had to slap them on the wrist, but give them a little sugar because they had to keep coming back otherwise you didn't have any customers."

After the passing of his first wife, McClelland married his second wife Elizabeth and spent time traveling the world and bringing tournaments to new international locales, including the first tournaments to be hosted in

Russia, Vienna, Cyprus, Aruba, and the Isle of Man.

World Poker Tour Comes Calling

McClelland then spent 12 years at the helm of the Bellagio in Las Vegas, helping to launch and host numerous events on the *World Poker Tour* such as the *Five Diamond World Poker Classic*, *Doyle Brunson North American Poker Championship*, *Bellagio Cup*, and many years of *WPT Championships*.

McClelland was even there for the very first *WPT* broadcast back in 2002.

"Steve Lipscomb, Mike Sexton, and Lyle Berman had this crazy idea for showing hole cards on TV. My partner, the Director of Poker Doug Dalton had handled cash games all of his life, and asked me what I thought. I said, 'It will work.'"

He also had a hand in kicking off the high roller circuit.

"I wanted to be different than the *World Series of Poker*, so I made the *WPT Championship* a \$25,000 [buy-in] and everybody thought we'd only get 10 players. We got 111 the first year and built it up to 655 before the internet poker laws changed and the economy crashed."

Legacy

Few individuals have left a bigger mark on the modern game. McClelland's voice, rulings, and vision helped shape poker into the global



sport it is today.

McClelland was inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame in 2014, alongside Daniel Negreanu, as one of the few non-players to receive the honor.

He retired in 2013 and spent the last decade of his life playing cards in Las Vegas. He did quite well despite his senior status, racking up 11 wins in the last five years alone.

In 2021, McClelland finished fifth in the *WSOP* \$10,000 Stud Championship. He had three stud final tables at the series overall, and in 2024 made a deep run in the *Hall of Fame Bounty Tournament*, finishing 15th. His last cash came in July at the Wynn.

The Poker World Reacts

“Jack was a giant in our industry. He was the best tournament director of all-time,” said fellow Hall of Famer Phil Hellmuth. “He was just a pleasure to be around, a pleasure to talk to. You can ask anybody in poker, they’ll confirm that that’s the case.”

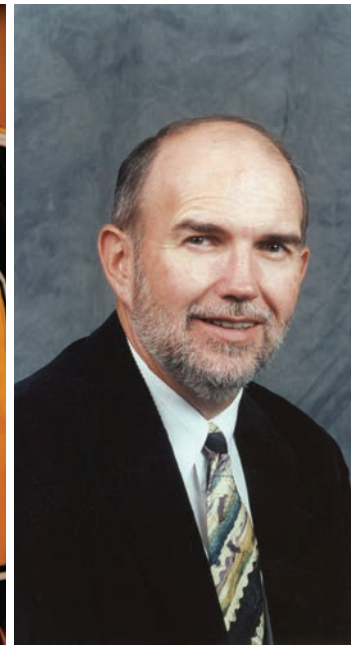
“In 2000 I made back-to-back final

tables in Tunica, both with disappointing results, and Jack McClelland’s exact words were ‘Keep knocking and the door will open.’ To this day, I still remind myself of this every time I bust with a disappointing finish,” said Josh Arieh.

“Jack was a friend to all poker players, even us young whippersnappers finding our way in the game,” said Andy Bloch. “He made sure poker players were taken care of. Without Jack, poker tournaments would not be what they are today. He set the standard for how events were run. His rules were well-thought-out and clear, drafted with a keen eye for reducing angle-shooting.”

“Thank you, Jack McClelland, for your service and unwavering passion for the game,” shared *WSOP* CEO Ty Stewart in a statement. “A true poker man and even better gentleman. Whether as player, tournament director, or friend, everyone knew the poker room was made better by your presence.” ♠





PHIL GALFOND ON RUNNING IT ONCE TWICE

High-Stakes Entrepreneur Sees His
Online Poker Site Rise From The Ashes

By Sean Chaffin



Phil Galfond's foray into running an online poker brand hasn't been easy. The longtime poker pro launched Run It Once Poker in 2019 after debuting the training site of the same name in 2012. The goal was to create a platform that was a "fair, honest, transparent poker site that believes in the dream that I have lived." He hoped to build solid software that attracted both pros and part-timers alike.

Finding a niche in the market would be tough, however. The effort lasted three years before pulling the plug in January 2021 after seeing declining traffic along with development issues and mounting costs. It didn't matter how solid the product was, Galfond's site just couldn't compete with the player pools of the other already-entrenched operators.

However, Rush Street Interactive (RSI), the online gaming company based in Illinois, then acquired the platform in March 2022 for \$5.8 million. RSI saw that the bones of the business were good, and hoped to revive the brand as part of its BetRivers online gaming platform.

That plan officially came to fruition in November with a launch in Pennsylvania. The brand then added Michigan, West Virginia, and Delaware. (pg. 12) With New Jersey on the horizon, BetRivers could become the first operator covering five states.

Despite selling the platform, Galfond played a major role in the relaunch. The 40-year-old has been heavily involved in everything from the rebrand to advising on software and game offerings. Seeing the product rise from the dead has been a thrill for Galfond who believes BetRivers Poker is now in the right hands for success.

"It's been a roller coaster, certainly, but it's really excit-

ing," Galfond said. "When we launched it, initially... it was always a dream to come to the U.S. market eventually. We really hoped to have success in the rest of the world market, but that was a dream scenario. I think all the way back, it's a little bittersweet, because I wanted to get here a different way initially. We had a dream and a vision of what we wanted online poker to be, but we were too small to have the impact that we wanted... getting here in the U.S. as part of a company that's big enough to make this thing work and to be a real player in the market, alongside PokerStars, BetMGM, and WSOP.

"At the end of the day, when you launch a company, you want to be successful. You want it to grow, and want to do well, and have it be very profitable. It was started as part of a mission, which was to shape online poker for the better. Looking back at the roller coaster journey, there are a lot of highs and a lot of lows, but it's so cool that what we built back then and the ideas and vision we had is now finally in the U.S. market and actually making a difference with some new ideas."

Galfond recently spoke with *Card Player* about his role in shaping the platform along with his own poker life and where he sees the industry going.

In The Poker Lab

When RSI purchased Run It Once, relaunching the online poker product in the U.S. would take some time – meeting regulatory hurdles, rebranding, and marketing. Like most operators, the company sought to offer a multi-channel online gaming approach, allowing players to easily navigate to sports betting, online casino gambling, and poker, which was the missing component.

RSI also purchased *Poker Night in America* in 2022 as



well and took over the contract for online gaming with the state of Delaware in late December 2023, replacing 888 Holdings. That left the state without an online poker operator, but that changed this year with June's launch.

"They've been interested in poker for a long time," Galfond says. "People in the company care about poker, and we knew that going into our talks with them."

Galfond has been key in getting the BetRivers Poker platform up and running over the last few years. He says things have actually been easier from his point of view. He previously managed those in charge of the development team – solving problems in bug tests and other critical software areas. RSI's team took over much of that process, leaving him to focus on other elements.

"I get to be involved in the fun part and what I enjoy the most, which is design and policies and features," he said. "We [copied] a lot that we had in the rest of the world. But we've also added all different kinds of tournaments, with more to come out shortly. It's fun to focus on the products."

Beyond his advising role, Galfond also serves as an ambassador for the site. Rush Street also brought Phil Hellmuth on board in January. Both play on the site, including Hellmuth topping Galfond in a pair of promotional heads-up battles for \$10,000 in March.

Chasing Away Cheaters

Galfond hopes to be at the forefront in scrubbing as much cheating out of the game as possible. Recent scandals have included major-name players being caught using RTA (real-time assistance), multi-accounting, and ghosting. In September 2023, Reuters broke the story on a major Russian bot farm that was plaguing the industry.

Does Galfond believe these types of incidents have hurt players' attitudes toward online poker over the last few years?

"Yes and no," he said. "The no side is that these scandals have been around forever. They have a different flavor, but I've been playing online poker for over 20 years now, and there were always scandals. I think there's probably a big scandal at least every year, and probably several. So, yes, I think that's the attitude of people toward online poker and I don't think that's a new thing. I think what people are scared of now, that they were less scared of before, is AI and the advancement of AI. Because AI is advancing everywhere else outside of poker, I think it gives the perception that we're very close to computers being better than humans at everything and that GTO-level play is easily accessible."

Those fears may be a bit overblown for the wrong reasons, Galfond explained.

"It's not as big of a concern as people think, but I do believe it's a risk for the future if it becomes easier to have AI solutions that don't look the same. For example, there have been some GTO Wizard-using scandals. Even though it has some AI solutions, that's not how people are cheating. They're cheating with the pre-solved ones, and those look the same, so they already know what those look like. Those are patterns that the sites can detect. But if we get to a world where technology just improves leaps and bounds, then there is a lot of uncertainty and unknowns. I'm not going to pretend to know what a post-AI revolution world looks like for poker or for anywhere else."

Getting Back To The Tables

Galfond has a deep history crushing high stakes, including winning millions playing as 'OMGClayAiken' on Full

Farah Galfond



Tilt and ‘MrSweets28’ on PokerStars. He launched a series of Galfond Challenges in 2019 as well, battling it out in heads-up pot-limit Omaha on Run It Once against players like Bill Perkins, Chance Kornuth, and Dan Cates.

In 2008, Galfond grabbed his first *World Series of Poker* bracelet in a \$5,000 PLO event for \$817,781. He added a \$10,000 no-limit 2-7 single draw championship title in 2015 for \$224,383, and scored his third bracelet in the \$10,000 PLO eight-or-better championship in 2018 for \$567,788.

However, all that work behind the scenes on an online poker site left little time for Galfond to actually play himself. Despite the big wins and more than \$3.1 million in live winnings, he still considers himself an online player and prefers hitting the virtual tables more than jumping in large-field events in casinos.

“I’m a cash game player, and primarily an online cash game player, and primarily a heads-up online cash game player these days,” he said. “The questions I always get asked is: ‘Why aren’t you out at this *Triton* event? Why aren’t you playing a bunch of *WSOP* events?’ It’s not the kind of poker I play. I’ve dabbled in the past in *WSOP* events because they can be fun and enjoyable. But the reason that I play a lot less tournaments nowadays is my schedule, not only my work schedule, but just my sleeping schedule. I go to bed at 8:30, and playing one tournament and going to bed at 3 a.m. throws me off for a whole week.”

The trend of high-stakes cash games going private has also curbed some of his play, and that has carried over online. Galfond has focused more on creating content, coaching, and running his poker training business. Online challenges and other special events interest him much more now.

“The old days of opening my computer and hopping online and having a selection of the games that I play – those days are not here anymore, or at least for now,” he said.

Husband And Wife Poker Life

Galfond’s wife Farah, a former soap opera star on *Days Of Our Lives* and *One Life To Live*, has been the live poker face of the family for the last few years, racking up \$300,000 in

cash. The couple starred in a docuseries in 2024 chronicling their daily lives in the game. There are no plans for a second season, but much of their life still revolves around betting and bluffing.

“I think we both like talking poker with each other,” he said. “I think because she’s the one out there, and I’m not, it’s mostly her coming back with hands that she’s played. She could be asking my opinion, and we talk strategy, or it’s just recounting a funny or an interesting hand. I hear that it’s harder to coach a spouse than someone else, and that matches my experience. She’s curious about my take on some things, but it’s a short conversation. We don’t dive into lessons or session reviews or things like that.”

It’s rare that Galfond’s life doesn’t involve some aspect of poker, but when not working or playing, the couple spends their time raising their son. “Boring” family life is a big part of their week and they mix in some occasional travel as well. Currently, Galfond is focused on his new *Beyond the Game* group coaching program, which takes a lot of mental energy. He describes the overall Run It Once training business as “solid” despite increased competition.

“I don’t like to just do something,” he admitted. “I like to try to do the best that I can and improve routinely. So right now, because I don’t have poker to play, I’m trying to improve on how to be a great coach. It’s been fun just learning and growing in it in a different area. I do make content as well, but that’s not as much of a passion. I’m not done with poker playing. But right now, there’s nothing to play. I’m pursuing mastery elsewhere.”

“I spent several years working on things I was passionate about, but not doing the parts of it I was passionate about. It was a valuable lesson in the days where I was full time across Run It Once and Run It Once Poker and missing playing poker. I’ve learned some valuable lessons, some I’m still learning about sticking to the areas that I’m an expert in and not necessarily needing to put my hands in all the areas that other people can do just as well or better, because that lets me continue to focus on the parts that energize me.” ♠

“I spent several years working on things I was passionate about but not doing the parts of it I was passionate about. It was a valuable lesson.”



DON'T JUDGE A SENIOR BY HIS COVER

David Baker Reflects On Emotional Summer Of Poker

By Craig Tapscott



David Baker was surrounded by cheering friends and family as the consummate pro captured his fourth *World Series of Poker* bracelet this summer in the \$5,000 seniors no-limit hold'em event.

It was an unexpectedly expressive win for the usually stoic Baker, but not surprising to the many players and fans who have followed the founder of the popular ODB Fantasy League's long and storied career.

"I've spent my whole life as a grinder," shared Baker. "I've always been kind of making money to pay for my family, my children, my travels, etc. I didn't expect to get emotional after it was all over. They were definitely happy tears."

Capturing a fourth piece of gold was special for Baker for numerous reasons, but the financial benefits from his second biggest lifetime score of over \$640,000 hit different for the seasoned pro.

"With this win, I'm able to take a breath, put money into my bankroll, and towards my future. I'm getting older, even though I've shown no signs of slowing down. But there will come a point when I choose to do so. The *WSOP* win was a culmination of all those feelings."

The 53-year-old then followed up his win with a third-place showing in the last \$5,000 no-limit event of the summer, banking another \$283,554. The *WPT L.A. Poker Classic* champion now has \$8.6 million in career lifetime tournament earnings.

Card Player caught up with Baker a few weeks after the dust had settled from the long summer grind.

Card Player: You moved to Vegas for the first time not too long ago, correct?

David Baker: Yes. I was finally able to get my kids out of the house. (laughs) My wife and I moved to Vegas after our kids went to college, which was four years ago. This is the first time in my career that I actually live where there's poker. For 20 years, I was nothing but a traveler. I would travel for cash games and tournaments.

CP: This win seems to stand out among your others. Can you share more about why this one meant so much?

DB: As great as my career has been, I've had several chances at big wins slip away. With this event, I was doing my best to get over that hump and not finish short of the win. All my other bracelets combined didn't equal the financial prize

© PokerGO/Miguel Cortes



of this one. It was different. It wasn't all about the bracelet.

Compared to the razz bracelet I won, this one actually had real-world implications. It was something like \$200,000 or \$250,000 difference between first and second, and \$400,000 between third and first, and so it actually was very fulfilling for me and my family to get it done.

CP: The money is usually what is important from most players' point of view.

DB: I don't want this to come off as an arrogant statement, but it's just, well, different as compared to winning \$152,000 for my razz bracelet in 2023. The financial gain was significant, as was building on a legacy in the poker world.

CP: Do you see yourself continuing to play as long as someone like Doyle Brunson? Your love for the game has always been apparent.

DB: I'm a poker player. I mean, that's what I am. It would always piss me off when the young guys would say, 'If I won the main event, I'd never play again.' I would think to myself, then you don't have the love for the game.

I'm cut from the same cloth as Doyle, but I don't really compare myself to him; not necessarily from my results, but more for the passion for the game.

CP: What category of grinder do you put yourself in, then?

DB: I think of myself more like a Shaun Deeb or a Scott Seiver. We do it for the love of the game, not necessarily because we have to, or because we're good at it. We do it because we love it.

So, whether I need to or not is irrelevant to me. I'll keep playing until I stop loving it. But right now, there's no end in sight. I absolutely love it.

If the *WSOP* had continued for another four weeks, I would have been there for it. It doesn't matter. I'll play every day.

CP: You seem to have a rock-solid table presence. Can you share some of your keys to mental strength when approaching poker?

DB: First off, I will say that I probably am not the most mentally prepared or fit person. (laughs)

I mean, the people that I mentioned that have that immense love of the game, they are also some of the most

mentally unstable people. Ask Seiver if he's mentally stable; he's not.

CP: Then how do you survive the lows when the game knocks you on your ass?

DB: I will say that it's important to me to have supportive friends and family. Everybody kind of yearns for this, and you can't force it. But I have an incredibly wonderful partner in life, and she's my mental coach as well. My wife keeps me positive and grounded.

From a young person's standpoint, you can't necessarily force it into your life, a good wife or a good husband. I just kind of got lucky with that. I will say that it's important to make sure you don't settle for a bad one. Because the wrong choice can torpedo a career, somebody who doesn't understand the lifestyle you've chosen to live. There's no going back on that.

I also have a few close friends, Marco Johnson, Mark Gregorich, and Ray Henson, who are all very mentally strong. We've all had our ups and downs in the game, but their support is so very important to me. You know, family-first, then poker, family and poker are kind of hand-in-hand for our lives.

CP: You were winning before solvers and are now winning after. How has your approach to poker strategy changed over the last 10 years?

DB: I've watched a couple of training courses, and they've helped me. I would say I'm kind of in between the two, GTO and exploitative. I don't study, but I do talk with some people who do. We go over concepts from time to time, and I'm very good at extrapolating what the strategy is saying and how I can adapt it to my own strategies.

CP: You just won your first no-limit bracelet. (Note: In addition to razz, Baker has also won the 8-game mix and limit hold'em events.) Clearly, the work is paying off, not that you were ever a slouch at hold'em.

DB: I think that's why I've been more successful over the last several years in no-limit than some of the people I've grown up playing against. I'm not trying to overhaul my game or the things I'm good at, but I'm also not being ambivalent about the new way of playing.



You could talk to some people at the tables. If you ask them after they played with me for a day, 'Does he do any studying?' Some of them would say, 'Absolutely not,' and some of them would say, 'Absolutely. He's doing all the right things.'

I've always considered myself a chameleon, able to adapt to my surroundings. I understand and consider the actions of my opponents. Even within a tournament, I can adapt and be completely different.

I ended up also getting third in the last \$5,000 event at the series, and I played multiple different styles. If you talked to one table, they would have thought that I was the tightest player ever, and if you spoke to the next table, I was an absolute maniac.

CP: What is the prime impetus for your switching of gears at the tables?

DB: I'm kind of trying to understand the motivations of the people around me, using that, and doing the opposite of what I perceive their motivations to be. To answer the question, I've implemented some minor changes, but I don't do it all the time. When I'm making a play, I think I get a little more credit for maybe having it, or on the other side, being reckless.

For example, I'm able to overbet in spots where I'm supposed to overbet, but they don't think that I'm doing it with that range of hands, whether it's either the nuts or the bluffs.

CP: Why is that?

DB: Because they don't think I'm playing a particular style, if that makes sense. The long and short of it is, I'm a hybrid of the new school and the old.

CP: Did you approach the senior event with a different strategy than you would usually?

DB: I haven't played that many. I'm barely a senior. But this is the first one where I had any success.

The thing is, people want to stereotype and pigeonhole players as something, whether it's women, seniors, Euros, young guys, etc. You really need to evaluate each person on their own merit.


It's kind of funny. We live in a society that tries not to place people into stereotypical roles. But at a poker table, people just want to say, 'Oh, the seniors do this or that.'

CP: How did you look at it?


DB: Everybody's still a poker player when it comes down to it. I don't think you can necessarily go in with a certain strategy. You have to play each table, as each person has their own approach to the game.

Yeah, there were some more opportunities for me to apply pressure, but I will say there are a good number of seniors who were pushing back at me. I was the young guy, the 'Euro player' to them. (laughs)

Everything in poker, in my estimation, is playing your situation for the time and trying not to bring our own biases into each table. ♠



“PEOPLE WANT TO STEREOTYPE AND PIGEONHOLE PLAYERS AS SOMETHING, WHETHER IT’S WOMEN, SENIORS, EUROS, YOUNG GUYS, ETC. YOU REALLY NEED TO EVALUATE EACH PERSON ON THEIR OWN MERIT.”

SURVIVOR 
SWEAT

JAKE CODY HEADLINES SEMINOLE HARD ROCK POKER OPEN CHAMPIONS

By Card Player News Team



Jake Cody

The 2025 *Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open*, which ran from July 29 through Aug. 12, attracted 16,723 entries across 63 events. Nearly \$14.6 million in prize money was awarded. The schedule for the 15-day festival at South Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood was dotted with several highlights, including seven events that awarded six-figure top prizes.

The most significant payday throughout the series was the \$510,850 that went to UK poker pro **Jake Cody**, who won the festival's main event. This triumph came almost 15 years after the then 22-year-old poker pro completed poker's triple crown, adding a *World Series of Poker* bracelet to his *European Poker Tour Deauville* and *World Poker Tour London* titles. Cody was the youngest player ever to accomplish that feat and secured all three titles in a span of less than 18 months.

Now 37, Cody has largely stepped away from live tournament poker in the last decade, outside of an occasional appearance in Florida. Cody roared back into the spotlight in a major way by topping the field of 889 entries that turned out for the *SHRPO* \$5,300 main event.

The tournament concluded via a three-way deal between

Cody, bracelet winner Jeremy Wien (\$450,000), and Stephen Song (\$438,000). The final three split the lion's share of a \$4,311,650 prize pool.

"It feels unbelievable, getting the trophy, winning the tournament," Cody told event staff. "Even if you get a lot of money, actually winning just feels so good. There's nothing that could have gone any different, I'm very happy with it."

This was Cody's first six-figure live tournament cash since October 2014. His career earnings now sit at nearly \$4.8 million.

Along with his first-place prize, Cody also claimed 1,824 points in the *Card Player* Player of the Year race, presented by CoinPoker. Cody now sits just outside the top 100 in the POY contest, thanks to another victory in Florida in a \$2,200 buy-in event earlier in the year.

"These days I just really play cash games," said Cody. "I play maybe like 10 tournaments a year, just in locations that I'm in. I still enjoy the rush of going deep, and there's no better feeling than going deep in a tournament. But cash games are where it's at right now."

Other notables who made the money included poker's all-time money leader Bryn Kenney (19th), four-time *WPT*



Shannon Shorr



Darren Elias



Landon Tice



Alex Anton



Neil Warren



Joseph Kim

champion Brian Altman (17th), Jeremy Becker (15th), Justin Zaki (11th), bracelet winner Chris Hunichen (9th), and recent *WSOP* \$5,000 no-limit hold'em six-max champion Andjelko Andrejevic (4th).

Shannon Shorr captured the second-largest payday of the series, along with his sixth live tournament title of the year. The two-time bracelet winner bested a field of 44 entries in the \$25,500 buy-in high roller, striking a deal with Cherish Andrews to close the event.

Andrews, who won this same event at the *Seminole Hard Rock Poker Showdown* series at the venue this spring, pocketed \$318,427 for her runner-up showing.

Shorr has now made 11 final tables in 2025. In addition to his half-dozen titles, he's also lodged a pair of runner-up showings this year. With 4,570 POY points, he now sits in 13th place on the leaderboard. Andrews moved inside the top 100 thanks to her deep run.

Bracelet winner Nicholas Seward (6th) and *WPT* champion Jonathan Jaffe (5th) were also among the six to earn a share of the \$1,086,800 prize pool in this high-stakes affair.

Darren Elias has had an eventful summer in 2025. The four-time *WPT* main event champion was agonizingly close to winning his first *WSOP* bracelet in the \$10,000 no-limit

deuce-to-seven single draw lowball championship, falling in second place after a heads-up marathon against Nick Schulman that lasted nearly eight hours. He would bounce back less than two weeks later, finally breaking through to secure the gold with a win in a \$888 online event.

Then in July, Elias's longstanding *WPT* title record was matched by Brian Altman, who took down the online *WPT Championship* event on ClubWPT Gold to enter into a tie with Elias.

The latest newsworthy development for the 38-year-old poker pro saw him top a field of 66 entries in the \$10,000 no-limit hold'em eight-max event at this festival. Elias earned \$219,535 and 360 POY points for the win. This was his second title of the year, with six final-table finishes so far. The victory, which was the 24th of his career, pushed Elias' total earnings to more than \$14.8 million.

Plenty of big names were at the final table, including Justin Zaki (7th), Shorr (6th), Hunichen (4th), Brock Wilson (3rd), and Artem Metalidi (2nd).

The \$3,000 deep stack no-limit hold'em drew 232 entries, with the \$500,000 guarantee outdone by \$126,400. The top 29 finishers all earned a share. The largest chunk of that prize money was ultimately awarded to **Landon Tice**, who struck a

TOURNAMENTS

heads-up deal with Frank Brannan that saw him secure the title and \$124,023. This was his second outright win of the year, having taken down a \$1,100 buy-in at the *Venetian DeepStack Extravaganza I* in February for another \$51,163.

This victory also came with 576 POY points for Tice, who now boasts seven POY-qualified final-table finishes in 2025. As a result, he has climbed to 53rd place in the overall standings. He now has nearly \$3.8 million in career tournament earnings to his name after this latest win.

With 96 entries, the \$10,000 eight-max event nearly doubled the \$500,000 guarantee. **Alex Anton** found the winner's circle in the end, topping Nick Palma heads-up to take home \$288,000. This was the first six-figure score of Anton's career. Prior to this win, his biggest recorded cash was the \$19,900 he earned for a 240th-place showing in the 2022 *WPT World Championship*. Palma grew his career earnings to nearly \$2.9 million with the \$173,300 he secured as the runner-up.

There was \$912,000 in total prize money up for grabs, with a dozen players earning a slice of that pie. Notables who cashed included 2025 *WSOP* main event sixth-place finisher

Adam Hendrix (10th), 2023 POY award winner Bin Weng (8th), Hunichen (6th), and Nitis Udornpim (5th).

Hunichen made four final tables during the festival overall, including a win in the \$2,200 no-limit event, accruing over \$204,000 in total.

Neil Warren was the champion of the only other five-figure buy-in during the series. He overcame 41 entries in the \$10,000 six-max event, outlasting six-time bracelet winner Jeremy Ausmus heads-up to earn \$151,905 and the trophy. 10-time bracelet winner Erik Seidel (5th) and recent top POY contender Andrew Ostapchenko (4th) also made the money.

The largest field of the festival was the 5,658 turnout for the \$400 deep stack event. That resulted in a prize pool of \$1,867,140, with the top four ultimately earning six-figure payouts after striking a multi-way deal. **Joseph Kim** was the champion in the end, taking home the largest payout of \$159,149 and the trophy.

This year's *SHRPO* is in the books, leaving a few months before the next big series at the venue. The *Rock 'n' Roll Poker Open* is slated to run Nov. 19 - Dec. 2. ♠

Hard Rock Poker Open - Seminole Hard Rock - Hollywood, FL

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$400 NLH July 30-Aug. 4 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 5,658 Prizepool: \$1,867,140	1 Joseph Kim	\$159,149 (528)
	2 Carlos Pino	\$151,073 (440)
	3 Al Norman	\$148,637 (352)
	4 Baseem Nsier	\$118,261 (264)
	5 Ryan Vanson	\$64,000 (220)
	6 Matt Bretzfield	\$48,500 (176)
	7 Gregory Head	\$37,500 (132)
	8 David Jackson	\$29,000 (88)
	9 Jordan Schneider	\$22,700 (44)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,000 NLH 6-Max Aug. 5 Entries: 41 Prizepool: \$389,500	1 Neil Warren	\$151,905 (300)
	2 Jeremy Ausmus	\$89,585 (250)
	3 Anatoly Nikitin	\$54,530 (200)
	4 Andrew Ostapchenko	\$38,950 (150)
	5 Erik Seidel	\$31,160 (125)
	6 Justin Chu	\$23,370 (100)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,000 NLH 8-Max Aug. 7 Entries: 66 Prizepool: \$627,000	1 Darren Elias	\$219,535 (360)
	2 Artem Metalidi	\$125,400 (300)
	3 Brock Wilson	\$76,800 (240)
	4 Chris Hunichen	\$54,800 (180)
	5 Robert Hagan	\$42,325 (150)
	6 Shannon Shorr	\$32,900 (120)
	7 Justin Zaki	\$28,215 (90)
	8 Daniel Swartz	\$25,080 (60)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,300 NLH Aug. 8-12 \$3,000,000 GTD Entries: 889 Prizepool: \$4,311,650	1 Jake Cody	\$510,850 (1824)
	2 Jeremy Wien	\$450,000 (1520)
	3 Stephen Song	\$438,000 (1216)
	4 Andjelko Andrejevic	\$240,000 (912)
	5 Shaun Davis	\$181,000 (760)
	6 Tray Jones	\$138,000 (608)
	7 Xiaoyao Ma	\$106,000 (456)
	8 Joseph Curcio	\$82,000 (304)
	9 Chris Hunichen	\$65,000 (152)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$3,000 NLH Aug. 10-12	1 Landon Tice	\$124,023 (576)
	2 Frank Brannan	\$107,177 (480)
	3 Kevin Schulz	\$68,000 (384)
\$500,000 GTD Entries: 232 Prizepool: \$626,400	4 Paul Zappulla	\$51,000 (288)
	5 Vitalijs Zavorotnijs	\$38,500 (240)
	6 Brock Wilson	\$29,500 (192)
	7 Harry Cullen	\$22,700 (144)
	8 Justin Fawcett	\$17,600 (96)
	9 Adam Hendrix	\$13,800 (48)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$25,500 NLH Aug. 11-12	1 Shannon Shorr	\$352,873 (420)
	2 Cherish Andrews	\$318,427 (350)
	3 Michael Macchia	\$154,300 (280)
\$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 44 Prizepool: \$1,086,800	4 Frank Russo	\$108,700 (210)
	5 Jonathan Jaffe	\$87,000 (175)
	6 Nicholas Seward	\$65,500 (140)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,000 NLH 8-Max Aug. 12	1 Alex Anton	\$288,000 (540)
	2 Nicholas Palma	\$173,300 (450)
	3 Anatoly Nikitin	\$109,500 (360)
\$500,000 GTD Entries: 96 Prizepool: \$912,000	4 Filipp Khavin	\$71,700 (270)
	5 Nitis Udornpim	\$54,800 (225)
	6 Christopher Hunichen	\$43,200 (180)
	7 Tyler Hirschfeld	\$36,500 (135)
	8 Bin Weng	\$32,000 (90)

© SHR Poker Blog

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open
\$5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Justin Zaki
6,050,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 17%
After Flop: 8%
After Turn: 5%



Jake Cody
7,975,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 82%
After Flop: 92%
After Turn: 95%



PREFLOP

With 11 players remaining and blinds of 50,000-100,000 with a big blind ante of 100,000, Andjelko Andrejevic raised to 200,000 from under the gun. Justin Zaki three-bet to 525,000 from the cutoff. Jake Cody four-bet to 1,225,000 from the small blind, and Andrejevic folded. Zaki called.



Cody bet 750,000, and Zaki called.



Cody bet 950,000, and Zaki called.



Cody moved all in. Zaki called all in for 3,125,000.

COMMENTARY:

The Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open \$5,300 main event drew 889 entries to create a final prize pool of \$4.3 million. When this key hand arose, just 11 contenders remained from that sizable turnout. Despite holding pocket kings, this wasn't an exciting spot for Justin Zaki right from the start. Ranges should be quite tight in a four-bet pot with these stacks at this stage of the tournament. The "normal" play is to go all in with kings preflop in this situation, but he opted to call and protect his stack's equity given that several other players were short. The only realistic pairs he beats preflop are queens and possibly jacks, unless Jake Cody decided to really get out of line. Cody should also have A-K in his range pretty often as well. Cody got a dream nine-high flop that missed both players' ranges. Neither player should ever have a six, though some flush draws could be present. Cody barreled away with a small sizing on the flop and turn, and the board completed with low backdoor hearts. Prior to the river, Zaki had standard calls since raising doesn't generate any value and folding is too weak. With the stack-to-pot ratio at 0.5 and a hand that beats everything other than a backdoor flush, Cody went for the river jam. Zaki was getting 3:1, so he didn't have to win that often to justify a call, at least in chip equity. The ICM pressure likely made folding a very real consideration, however. He didn't really beat anything besides a bluff or an optimistic pocket pair of queens for Cody. Not holding a large heart was probably good from his perspective, as the A♥ and the K♥ will be the most likely cards in Cody's bluffing range. In the end, he went for the call and found that he was on the wrong end of a gross cooler.

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

NICOLAS CHOUIITY HEADLINES MERIT POKER DOLCE VITA CHAMPIONS

By Erik Fast



Nicolas Chouity

The 2025 *Merit Poker Dolce Vita Summer Series* ran from July 27 through Aug. 8 at Merit Crystal Cove Hotel and Casino in North Cyprus, with several headlining events spread throughout the series.

The centerpiece of the whole affair was the \$2 million guaranteed \$3,300 *La Notte Degli Assi* event. It was ultimately won by **Nicolas Chouity**, who seems to play his best tournament poker around the Mediterranean.

The Lebanon native's six largest scores have all come relatively near his home country, including his breakthrough triumph in the 2010 *European Poker Tour Grand Final* in Monte Carlo for nearly \$2.3 million.

The latest triumph for Chouity saw him best a field of 1,023 entries to earn \$460,000. He also secured 1,440 POY points.

"Back in the day, I was 23 — now I'm 39. So naturally, I'm more mature now," Chouity told Merit Poker staff when asked to compare this win to his *EPT* triumph. "Before, I was more... more excited. I'm not saying I'm not happy now — but back then it was a different experience. Still, I'm happy, don't get me wrong."

This was the fourth-largest payday yet for Chouity, who is now just a bit shy of \$6 million in career tournament scores.

Chouity held the chip lead among the nine who made the final day of this event. He scored an early knockout, then survived to the final four, keeping near or at the top of the chip counts while staying out of the way.

He then picked up another bustout when his pocket jacks cracked the pocket aces of Mehmet Deniz. A jack on the river gave Chouity a set for the win. With that, he had more than 70 percent of the chips in play heading into three-handed action.

Richard Broda knocked out France's Mahmut Sanli in third to set the heads-up battle. Flush over flush saw Chouity close out the win, sending Broda home with \$307,000.

The \$1 million guaranteed \$2,200 *IPO Master* event

drew 730 entries, outstripping the guarantee by \$343,299. **Xiaosheng Zheng** emerged victorious in the end, taking home a career-best payday of \$225,000 as the champion.

This was the fourth recorded title for the player from China, who now sits with nearly \$1.2 million in lifetime cashes after this win. It was also his fourth final-table finish of the year, and he now sits just outside the top 200 on the POY leaderboard.

France's **Cedric Schwaederle** finished 11th in the kickoff event for \$18,500. He turned around and fired a chunk of that score into the \$5,300 high roller event. The decision turned out to be a highly profitable one, as he bested a field of 318 entries to earn \$310,000 and the title.

Prior to this, Schwaederle's top payday had been the \$193,100 he earned for a 21st-place showing in the *WPT World Championship* in 2023. Now he boasts over \$1.3 million in lifetime tournament earnings.

The strong turnout for the event saw the \$750,000 guarantee nearly doubled, with \$1,462,800 in total prize money ultimately paid out across the top 41 spots. Several big names ran deep, including POY contender Quan Zhou (34th), bracelet winner Ohad Geiger (30th), and *PokerStars Open Campione* champion Adrian State (5th).

The \$3,300 buy-in Mystery Bounty event drew 357 players, easily clearing the \$500,000 guarantee. In the end, the title went to high roller circuit grinder **Ren Lin**, who banked \$88,000 plus bounties. Lin now has \$16 million in career tournament earnings.

Another player who had a strong showing during the series was Maxime Chilaud. The French pro finished runner-up in the \$1,650 six-max event for \$25,400, and then added another \$23,000 by winning the \$1,100 six-max event a week later.

Andreas Erotokritou took down the closing \$2,200 no-limit event, which nearly tripled its guarantee of \$250,000 with 404 entries. The pro earned \$140,000 for the victory.



Xiaosheng Zheng



Cedric Schwaederle



Ren Lin



Andreas Erotokritou

Dolce Vita Summer Series - Merit Crystal Cove - Kyrenia, Cyprus

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$2,200 NLH July 28-Aug. 1 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 730 Prizepool: \$1,343,200	1 Xiaosheng Zheng	\$225,000 (912)
	2 Gerard Santamaria	\$150,000 (760)
	3 Mahmut Sanli	\$100,600 (608)
	4 Damir Zhugralin	\$74,000 (456)
	5 Joan Crespi	\$58,000 (380)
	6 Khalil Jabra	\$45,500 (304)
	7 Benjamin LeBlond	\$36,500 (228)
	8 Adem Agoudjil	\$29,500 (152)
	9 David Boyaciyan	\$23,500 (76)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,300 NLH July 31-Aug. 2 \$750,000 GTD Entries: 318 Prizepool: \$1,462,800	1 Cedric Schwaederle	\$310,000 (960)
	2 Mohamed Wely	\$216,500 (800)
	3 Aren Bezhanyan	\$155,000 (640)
	4 Xuming Qi	\$111,000 (480)
	5 Adrian State	\$81,000 (400)
	6 Salah Assi	\$60,500 (320)
	7 Mehmet Demirkol	\$45,700 (240)
	8 Sakis Adrianopoulos	\$35,000 (160)
	9 Roman Pshyk	\$27,500 (80)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$3,300 NLH Aug. 2-8 \$2,000,000 GTD Entries: 1,023 Prizepool: \$2,823,480	1 Nicolas Chouity	\$460,000 (1,440)
	2 Richard Broda	\$307,000 (1,200)
	3 Anonymous	NA
	4 Mehmet Deniz	\$156,000 (720)
	5 Aleksandr Razinkov	\$115,000 (600)
	6 Anonymous	NA
	7 Nebi Baysal	\$77,500 (360)
	8 Viacheslav Balaev	\$61,500 (240)
	9 Adil Tlimisov	\$46,280 (120)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$3,300 NLH KO Aug. 6-7 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 357 Prizepool: \$449,820	1 Ren Lin	\$88,000 (900)
	2 Caner Gunes	\$60,000 (750)
	3 Geoffrey Mooney	\$41,800 (600)
	4 Maroun Jazzar	\$29,500 (450)
	5 Adem Agoudjil	\$22,100 (375)
	6 Roman Stoyka	\$18,000 (300)
	7 Anton Danilov	\$14,700 (225)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$2,200 NLH Aug. 7-8 \$250,000 GTD Entries: 404 Prizepool: \$743,360	1 Andreas Erotokritou	\$140,000 (720)
	2 Ivan Zabayakin	\$96,000 (600)
	3 Gerard Santamaria	\$67,000 (480)
	4 Alexandros Kolonias	\$49,000 (360)
	5 Fahredin Mustafov	\$36,100 (300)
	6 Leonid Orman	\$28,900 (240)
	7 Illia Matus	\$23,600 (180)
	8 Leonid Bozhokov	\$18,900 (120)
	9 Tian Hao	\$14,560 (60)



ANTONIO VARGAS CONQUERS MSPT COLORADO

By Ryan Lucchesi

Antonio Vargas took down the latest *Major Series of Poker: The Tour* stop near the top of the Rocky Mountains in Black Hawk, Colorado. It was a vindication win for Vargas, who had previously finished third in another *MSPT* event at the same venue in early 2024. The nearby Commerce City resident was awarded \$141,255 for the win, the largest score of his poker career.

“It’s truly amazing, I came very close in this event last year, so to be able to close this one out, words can’t describe it,” said Vargas.

The \$1,110 no-limit hold’em tournament saw 875 entries made at Bally’s Black Hawk. That put the prize pool at \$847,250, which easily surpassed the \$500,000 guarantee.

The start of the final table saw Vargas sitting among the top three. He survived to the podium places, and then decided to notch up the aggression.

Vargas scored a huge pot to take the chip lead after flopping a flush against Rich Dixon. He then took out Dixon in third place when his $A\spadesuit 3\spadesuit$ held against $K\clubsuit J\heartsuit$ after all the money got in pre flop. That gave Vargas roughly a 2:1 chip advantage over Zack Whitney before the final battle of the tournament began.

The final two players decided to do an ICM chop, ending the tournament. The decision awarded Vargas the title and top prize money for his first *MSPT* victory. This was his fifth win in a tournament hosted at Bally’s Black Hawk.



Whitney scored six figures for his efforts, with the \$120,190 payday almost doubling his career earnings.

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Antonio Vargas	\$141,255 (912)
2 Zachary Whitney	\$120,190 (760)
3 Rich Dixon	\$73,371 (608)
4 Rahul Lal	\$54,779 (456)
5 Thomas Fuller	\$41,499 (380)
6 John Schroer	\$31,539 (304)
7 Cody Mondeau	\$24,070 (228)
8 Andrew Dea	\$19,085 (152)
9 Erik Macias	\$14,940 (76)

© MSPT

JUSTIN ONG GOES BACK-TO-BACK AT APPT MANILA, ENDING WITH MAIN EVENT VICTORY

By Erik Fast

Justin Ong outlasted 1,246 entries to emerge victorious in the *Asia Pacific Poker Tour Manila* main event. The 80,000 PHP (\$1,433 USD) buy-in tournament ran from July 31 through Aug. 4 at Cove Manila at Okada Manila, Philippines.

The strong turnout saw the guarantee of \$1 million cleared by approximately \$500,000.

Ong earned \$256,370 as the champion. This triumph came just a handful of days after the Philippines resident took down a \$1,164 buy-in *PokerStars Red Dragon* event at the same series for another \$81,605.

The final day began with 20 players remaining and Ong in the lead, and he was still at the top when the last nine contenders converged onto a single table. Oliver Lirio scored two of the next three knockouts to edge in front heading into six-handed action.

Ong then eliminated short-stacked Sungmin Oh to regain control, and extended his advantage when his $Q\heartsuit 10\heartsuit$ outran the $A\spadesuit 6\heartsuit$ of Ryan Tan.

There were plenty of swings during the three-handed action. Lirio slid down to a short stack, only to surge back and eliminate Chase Cokaliong in third place.

With that, Lirio took more than a 2:1 chip advantage into heads-up play with Ong. The early action favored Ong, who regained the lead in time for the final hand of the tournament.

Ong limped from the button with pocket eights and



Lirio raised with $J\heartsuit 9\heartsuit$. Ong moved all-in and Lirio called. The board came down safely and Ong dragged the pot to earn the title.

Lirio, also a native of the Philippines, took home \$160,230 as the runner-up.

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Justin Ong	\$256,370 (960)
2 Oliver Lirio	\$160,230 (800)
3 Chase Cokaliong	\$114,330 (640)
4 Kim Enriquez	\$88,345 (480)
5 Ryan Tan	\$67,730 (400)
6 Sungmin Oh	\$52,140 (320)
7 Edgar Asehan	\$40,263 (240)
8 Katsuhito Kawai	\$31,025 (160)
9 Somashekar Nahadeva	\$24,030 (80)

© PokerStars

ANDREW MORENO TAKES DOWN MISSION RUNGOOD MILLION

By Erik Fast

Andrew Moreno outlasted 386 entries in the \$1 million guaranteed \$2,700 *Mission RunGood Million Dollar* main event at Thunder Valley Casino and Resort near Sacramento, California. The 42-year-old Texas resident earned \$200,080 and the *RGPS* championship ring.

Moreno now has more than \$5.5 million in tournament earnings, including seven recorded titles. His largest score remains the \$1.4 million he secured as the winner of the 2021 *Wynn Millions*.

This was the second victory and ninth final-table finish of the year for Moreno. The 900 *Card Player* Player of the Year points that came with this title run grew his total points to 3,900, which is currently good for 27th place in the race presented by CoinPoker.

Moreno scored several knockouts on the way to the final table, giving him the largest stack.

Michael Persky, who won two *WSOP Circuit* main events in 2023, finished in eighth place. Robert Grossglauser, who busted Persky, scored two more eliminations to leave just five remaining, but then ran pocket fours into the pocket sixes of Moreno to finish fifth.

Moreno then took out Jackson Spencer in fourth and Joshua Prager in third to give him the advantage going into heads-up play against Hamed Valizadegan.

Valizadegan managed an early double-up, but was soon all in and at risk again. The chips went in after a 7♥ 4♦ 3♠ flop. Both players had made top pair, but Valizadegan's 10♦ 7♥ was pipped by the J♥ 7♣ of Moreno. The Q♣ turn and



8♦ river changed nothing, and Valizadegan was awarded \$139,240 as the runner-up.

Player	Payout (POV)
1 Andrew Moreno	\$200,080 (900)
2 Hamed Valizadegan	\$139,240 (750)
3 Joshua Prager	\$89,620 (600)
4 Jackson Spencer	\$61,220 (450)
5 Robert Grossglauser	\$47,030 (375)
6 Shane Miller	\$39,130 (300)
7 Stephen Hesse	\$32,750 (225)
8 Michael Persky	\$26,350 (150)
9 Dan Stavila	\$19,950 (75)

UK PLAYER WITH '£600 IN THE BANK' WINS GOLIATH

By Erik Fast

Paul Worsley topped a record field of 12,961 entries in the £200 no-limit hold'em *GOLIATH* event Grosvenor Casino Coventry in his home country of England. The win couldn't have come at a better time for the Liverpool resident, who might have strayed from bankroll management guidelines a bit by entering this event.

"I can't believe I've won, to be honest. I'm speechless," Worsley told a reporter. "I've got £600 in my bank."

Worsley was awarded £316,640 as the champion, which amounts to \$421,131 in USD. This was the largest score yet for Worsley, who also finished 13th in a *GUKPT* event in Blackpool a decade ago.

This event drew the largest field of any live poker tournament ever held outside of Las Vegas. It was up 10.3 percent over the 11,749 turnout of 2024.

Worsley overcame a big chip deficit heads-up to secure the title. After deal negotiations amongst the final three contenders fell apart, Thomas Clack's Q♠ J♠ won a three-way showdown against the pocket nines of Vasilica Luca and A♦ Q♦ of Worsley, with a jack on the river ending Luca's run in third place (\$192,584).

Clack took a sizable lead into the final showdown, but Worsley battled back. The last hand of the tournament saw Clack rip from the button holding 9♠ 7♠. Worsley called with 10♣ 9♣ and held through a J♥ 9♥ 3♥ A♠ 10♠ runout, making tens up to win the pot and the title.

Clack was awarded \$289,275 as the runner-up, a new top



score that bested his 145th-place finish in the 2023 *WSOP* main event. The UK resident's earnings grew to more than \$700,000 thanks to this deep run.

Player	Payout
1 Paul Worsley	\$421,131
2 Thomas Clack	\$289,275
3 Vasilica Luca	\$192,584
4 Ben Parkin	\$133,625
5 Velupillai Kalahmohan	\$91,704
6 William Tagg	\$64,199
7 Jason Smith	\$44,542
8 Ryan Johnstone	\$31,441
9 Keith Tuckley	\$22,796

ENGLAND ALL-TIME TOURNAMENT EARNINGS LEADERBOARD



Rank	Player	Earnings	Wins	Cashes
1	Stephen Chidwick	\$68,902,118	47	377
2	Ben Heath	\$33,040,605	6	143
3	Sam Trickett	\$21,880,488	9	61
4	Talal Shakerchi	\$19,914,227	9	77
5	Sam Grafton	\$15,374,594	8	112
6	Chris Moorman	\$12,696,439	26	356
7	Charlie Carrel	\$10,223,185	8	68
8	Toby Lewis	\$10,080,858	19	216
9	Benny Glaser	\$9,408,526	19	185
10	Jack Salter	\$9,223,263	12	196

England has been a tournament poker powerhouse for as long as results from the global circuit have been tracked. The nation of more than 58 million people has 72 *World Series of Poker* bracelets, the third-highest total of any country. 10 English players have won multiple bracelets, including eight-time *WSOP* champion **Benny Glaser**, who secured three victories this summer alone.

Jake Cody, who took down the *Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open* main event (see page 32) sits outside the top 20 on the English all-time money list despite nearly \$4.8 million in recorded earnings. In fact, it currently takes more than \$9.2 million to crack the top ten.

Stephen Chidwick has more than twice the earnings of his nearest competition on this leaderboard. The 36-year-old professional player from Deal has nearly \$67 million in lifetime cashes, the third-most of any player in poker history. The two-time *Card Player* Player of the Year and two-time bracelet winner has 14 seven-figure tournament scores on his resume, which includes 377 cashes. That means roughly 3.7 percent of his career in-the-money finishes have come with a million dollars or more in prize money.

His top payday was earned on home soil. He finished fourth in the highest buy-in tournament ever held, the £1,050,000 2019 *Triton Million Charity Invitational*, securing \$5,380,200 for his strong showing.

Ben Heath is second with more than \$33 million in career cashes. The Brighton native added to his haul in a major way last December when he finished second in the \$500,000 *Triton Million* invitational for \$8,160,000. The bracelet winner has six seven-figure scores, including a runner-up showing in the 2021 *WSOP* \$250,000 high roller for more than \$2 million.

Nottingham's **Sam Trickett** rounds out the top three. Trickett finished second in the very first \$1,000,000 buy-in ever held. He earned \$10,112,001 for his performance in the debut of the *Big One For One Drop* at the 2012 *WSOP*. He has four more seven-figure scores, including a win in the 2013 \$250,000 event at the *Aussie Millions* and a trio of million-plus paydays earned in 2011.

Given the abundance of massive tournaments around the globe and the consistency of England's top players, it likely won't be long before it takes \$10 million in career cashes to reside inside the top ten. ♠

playpoker GO

FUN & FREE ONLINE POKER
DEAL YOURSELF IN AT
PLAYPOKERGO.COM

AVAILABLE ON WEB, IOS, AND ANDROID



Check with your local jurisdiction regarding the legality of internet gaming before playing in real-money games.

CIRCUIT RESULTS



Oganез Ashotovich

© Parkwest Bicycle Casino

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Legends of Poker	1 Oganез Ashotovich	\$92,700 (540)
	2 Dylan Nguyen	\$92,400 (450)
Parkwest Bicycle Bell Gardens, CA	3 Daniel Preciado	\$71,285 (360)
	4 Klein Bach	\$39,135 (270)
	5 Zhihao Cao	\$28,250 (225)
\$500 NLH July 27-Aug. 4 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 1,856 Prizepool: \$779,520	6 Derek Gregory	\$21,990 (180)
	7 Lilya Shipner	\$17,580 (135)
	8 Huy Nguyen	\$13,750 (90)
	9 Hieu Le	\$10,015 (45)



John Misirian

© Parkwest Bicycle Casino

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Legends of Poker	1 John Misirian	\$112,485 (840)
	2 Sami Bechahed	\$70,105 (700)
Parkwest Bicycle Bell Gardens, CA	3 Jonah Lopas	\$51,045 (560)
	4 Charles Brunier	\$37,680 (420)
	5 Yoon Choi	\$28,200 (350)
\$1,100 NLH Aug. 7-10 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 638 Prizepool: \$625,240	6 Stuart Pfeifer	\$21,405 (280)
	7 James Walker	\$16,475 (210)
	8 Marc Robinson	\$12,870 (140)
	9 Jung Lee	\$10,200 (70)



Jenny Westerlund

© WSOP / Elena Kask

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Jenny Westerlund	\$234,234 (912)
	2 Krzysztof Chmielowski	\$150,345 (760)
Olympic Park Tallinn, Estonia	3 Igor Pihela	\$105,534 (608)
	4 Anonymous	NA
	5 Elias Vaaraniemi	\$53,820 (380)
€1,500 NLH July 29-Aug. 3 €1,000,000 GTD Entries: 888 Prizepool: \$1,329,505	6 David Vinayagamoorthy	\$38,727 (304)
	7 Jari-Pekka Juhola	\$29,320 (228)
	8 Stephen Groom	\$22,815 (152)
	9 Karolis Kutkauskas	\$16,614 (76)



David Vinayagamoorthy

© WSOP / Elena Kask

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 David Vinayagamoorthy	\$110,308 (288)
	2 Ritvars Cekalins	\$69,908 (240)
Olympic Park Tallinn, Estonia	3 Juan Duenas	\$46,625 (192)
	4 Chaofei Wang	\$32,877 (144)
	5 Casimir Seire	\$24,512 (120)
€5,000 NLH July 30 Entries: 64 Prizepool: \$348,644	6 Roman Petelytskyi	\$19,481 (96)
	7 Richard Koppel	\$16,614 (72)
	8 Juho Suutari	\$14,859 (48)
	9 Kestutis Jungevcius	\$13,460 (24)

All payouts in USD.

TOURNAMENTS

© Playground Poker



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Global Summer Million	1 Jodie Dunfield	\$144,000 (960)
	2 Michael Bailey	\$98,640 (800)
Playground Poker Kahnawake, Canada	3 Archimedes Arenas	\$63,792 (640)
	4 Zizhu Zhao	\$47,520 (480)
	5 Brian Hodhod	\$36,000 (400)
C\$1,150 NHL July 31-Aug. 3 C\$600,000 GTD Entries: 1,163 Prizepool: \$842,012	6 Stephane Blouin	\$28,800 (320)
	7 Jason Decksheimer	\$23,040 (240)
	8 Evan Sparling	\$18,720 (160)
	9 Benjamin Szimer	\$14,400 (80)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APT	1 Calvin Lee	\$236,376 (252)
Paradise City Incheon, South Korea	2 Jun Obara	\$157,586 (210)
	3 Mikael Andersson	\$101,304 (168)
KRW 35,000,000 NLH Aug. 4-5 Entries: 24 Prizepool: \$562,802	4 Thanisorn Saelor	\$67,536 (126)

© APT

© WPT



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WPT Prime Exhibition	1 Haoran Sun	\$353,497
	2 Philipp Zukernik	\$234,699
	3 Duhan Lee	\$174,269
UOB Live Bangkok, Thailand	4 Hong Cai	\$130,317
	5 Alex Lee	\$98,592
THB 37,000 NLH Aug. 1-5 Entries: 2,337 Prizepool: \$2,325,052	6 Atsunobu Konishi	\$75,215
	7 Allen Nielsen	\$57,874
	8 Amit Ashkenazi	\$44,907
	9 Nikhil Kedia	\$35,174



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APT	1 Cheng Huang	\$109,041 (504)
Paradise City Incheon, South Korea	2 Xiang Yu	\$95,544 (420)
	3 Kaoru Kishimoto	\$56,743 (336)
KRW 4,500,000 NLH Aug. 4-5 Entries: 197 Prizepool: \$553,542	4 Ho Ip	\$46,267 (252)
	5 Xu Hang	\$36,893 (210)
	6 Joseph Cheong	\$28,346 (168)
	7 Phuong Ngoc Nguyen	\$20,628 (126)
8 Natas Butsruta	\$14,947 (84)	
9 Hong Zhu	\$12,355 (42)	

© APT

TOURNAMENTS

Shigeji Kusakabe



© APT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APT	1 Shigeji Kusakabe	\$142,898 (408)
	2 Katsuki Yamashita	\$90,598 (340)
Paradise City Incheon, South Korea	3 Jie Zheng	\$65,477 (272)
	4 Yoshiki Kajiyama	\$52,956 (204)
KRW 3,000,000 NLH Aug. 7-8	5 Kiochi Imai	\$41,911 (170)
	6 Kwok Yip	\$32,263 (136)
KRW 250,000,000 GTD Entries: 250 Prizepool: \$739,300	7 Nang Nguyen	\$24,012 (102)
	8 Hon Cheong Lee	\$17,381 (68)
	9 Haibo Yang	\$14,069 (34)

Vakhtang Javakhishvili



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Vakhtang Javakhishvili	\$235,170 (900)
	2 Manuel Stojanovic	\$155,025 (750)
Card Casino Bratislava Ruzinov, Slovakia	3 Marcel Maubach	\$103,896 (600)
	4 Simeon Tsonev	\$71,955 (450)
€2,500 PLO Aug. 5-8	5 Mikael Hviid	\$50,661 (375)
	6 Jakub Janosovsky	\$36,668 (300)
€1,000,000 GTD Entries: 354 Prizepool: \$1,080,056	7 Tobias Schwecht	\$27,144 (225)
	8 Robert Cowen	\$20,709 (150)
	9 Memik Sezer	\$16,146 (75)

Edmond Chim



© APT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APT	1 Edmond Chim	\$159,055 (612)
	2 Jun Li	\$107,100 (510)
Paradise City Incheon, South Korea	3 Cheng Cheng	\$75,506 (408)
	4 Eisuke Katsuren	\$61,222 (306)
KRW 5,000,000 NLH Aug. 9-10	5 Murly Manokharan	\$48,434 (255)
	6 Kanwen Du	\$36,778 (204)
Entries: 245 Prizepool: \$754,911	7 Yoshihiko Hirano	\$26,849 (153)
	8 Dicky Tsang	\$19,627 (102)
	9 Xiang Yu	\$16,243 (51)

Robert Obrtlík



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Robert Obrtlík	\$210,834 (912)
	2 Erik Olivo	\$141,219 (760)
Card Casino Bratislava Ruzinov, Slovakia	3 Michal Schuh	\$99,216 (608)
	4 Zdenek Svoboda	\$70,259 (456)
€1,500 NLH Aug. 7-12	5 Alexis Kivu	\$50,135 (380)
	6 Piotr Kuszczak	\$36,446 (304)
€1,000,000 GTD Entries: 882 Prizepool: \$1,211,934	7 Rudolf Kosa	\$27,437 (228)
	8 Marcus Allberg	\$20,885 (152)
	9 Dmitry Lineburg	\$16,088 (76)



Jan Peter Jachtmann



Pablo Valdivieso

© WSOP

© Poker.org

Event	Player	Payout
WSOP Circuit Card Casino Bratislava Ruzinov, Slovakia €5,300 PLO Aug. 8-9 €500,000 GTD Entries: 94 Prizepool: \$555,750	1 Jan Peter Jachtmann	\$150,813 (432)
	2 Do Anh	\$98,105 (360)
	3 Blaz Zerjav	\$66,245 (288)
	4 Nikolaus Jedlicka	\$46,508 (216)
	5 Bernard Larabi	\$34,000 (180)
	6 Patrik Jaros	\$25,927 (144)
	7 Stefan Polster	\$20,674 (108)
	8 Leon Yanovsky	\$17,258 (72)
	9 Pavel Binar	\$15,140 (36)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit Harrah's Cherokee, NC \$400 NLH Aug. 12-14 \$750,000 GTD Entries: 2,921 Prizepool: \$963,930	1 Pablo Valdivieso	\$118,520 (480)
	2 David Mason	\$73,250 (400)
	3 Dylan Snyder	\$55,039 (320)
	4 Martin Debruhl	\$41,756 (240)
	5 Luther Tran	\$31,990 (200)
	6 James Nadolski	\$24,751 (160)
	7 Preston McEwen	\$19,341 (120)
	8 Jeffery Dickerson	\$15,267 (80)
	9 Ricardo Eyzaguirre	\$12,174 (40)



Connor Steinbrook



Siphonh Tran

© Poker.org

© MSPT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit Harrah's Cherokee, NC \$400 NLH Aug. 7-10 \$750,000 GTD Entries: 3,949 Prizepool: \$1,303,170	1 Connor Steinbrook	\$148,013 (528)
	2 Jamar Lejust	\$91,487 (440)
	3 Richard Dworsky	\$69,626 (352)
	4 Jose Marquez	\$53,429 (264)
	5 Daniel Pearlman	\$41,344 (220)
	6 Navin Enand	\$32,263 (176)
	7 Ryan List	\$25,392 (132)
	8 Robert Elliott	\$20,156 (88)
	9 Jimmy Young	\$16,139 (44)

Event	Player	Payout
MSPT Grand Falls Larchwood, IA \$1,110 NLH Aug. 8-10 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 368 Prizepool: \$355,460	1 Siphonh Tran	\$79,960 (600)
	2 Kyle Knudson	\$49,426 (500)
	3 Umut Ozturk	\$35,982 (400)
	4 Mark Bloomberg	\$26,532 (300)
	5 Blaise Poupore	\$19,990 (250)
	6 Jonathan Hanner	\$15,265 (200)
	7 Ryan Remmes	\$11,994 (150)
	8 Bill Romer	\$9,450 (100)
	9 David Gonia	\$6,906 (50)

TOURNAMENTS



Sungwoon Yoo

© Poker.org



Juan Ramirez

© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Potomac Poker Open	1 Sungwoon Yoo	\$139,986 (540)
	2 Dustin Batterberry	\$94,580 (450)
MGM National Harbor Oxon Hill, MD	3 Frayser Flores	\$61,256 (360)
	4 Matthew Riebel	\$45,398 (270)
	5 Italo Etkin	\$34,290 (225)
\$600 NLH Aug. 13-17 \$750,000 GTD Entries: 1,687 Prizepool: \$851,935	6 Kyle Janisse	\$27,690 (180)
	7 Michael Robinson	\$22,860 (135)
	8 Jared Ward	\$18,031 (90)
	9 Joel Lanning	\$13,442 (45)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Juan Ramirez	\$80,476 (480)
	2 Noah Curhan	\$53,244 (400)
Graton Rohnert Park, CA	3 Nicholas French	\$39,070 (320)
	4 Anthony Swensen	\$28,421 (240)
	5 Adam Miller	\$20,967 (200)
\$600 NLH Aug. 14-17 \$250,000 GTD Entries: 1,035 Prizepool: \$533,025	6 Assaf Sela	\$15,690 (160)
	7 Victor Calderon	\$11,913 (120)
	8 Tom Mahon	\$9,178 (80)
	9 Mark Newsom	\$7,177 (40)

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open
\$5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Jake Cody
15,525,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 56%
After Flop: 69%
After Turn: 5%



Stephen Song
9,500,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 43%
After Flop: 27%
After Turn: 95%



PREFLOP

With seven players remaining and blinds of 75,000-125,000 with a big blind ante of 125,000, Jake Cody raised to 250,000 from early position. Stephen Song called from the button.



Both players checked.



Cody bet 475,000, and Song called.



Cody checked. Song bet 1,400,000, and Cody folded.

COMMENTARY:

If everyone had similar stacks, this could have easily turned into a preflop war with both players in for a classic race. Stephen Song should three-bet with A-K on the button against an early opener in that hypothetical situation. He'd have likely faced a shove in response, and three-bet-folding A-K would have been a disaster. However, the actual chip distribution highly incentivized Song to lean into the passive branches of the game tree. The players were seven-handed at the final table, with four stacks at 32 big blinds or fewer. With that context, Song decided to flat call. Jake Cody had one of the better candidates to bet the flop, because weaker overpairs are more vulnerable and three overcards can come on the turn that he doesn't want to give Song a free shot at hitting. He could also just be checking his range on a board that he doesn't connect with very often. Song had an even clearer check since he wouldn't fold out better hands by firing, and doesn't get much value from worse either. On the turn, checking seems preferable from out of position. Cody's equity will usually be split between 'way ahead' or 'way behind.' Cody went for value, though, targeting smaller pairs. Song probably didn't want to play many raises for the same reasons that led him to flat preflop. As a result, A-K fits nicely into a call-heavy strategy. The river was pretty much a brick aside from the odd A-6 suited, though Cody could certainly have more random suited sixes that he opens given his status as the chip leader. After he checked, Song had a clear value bet. The solver likes a mix of small and big sizes, but the bigger size makes a lot of sense, especially given Song's aggressive reputation and image. It didn't work out for him this time, though, as Cody made a nice fold to preserve his chip lead.

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

SHARKSCOPE



THE #1

ONLINE POKER TOOL

TRUSTED FOR OVER 20 YEARS

- 📊 99% of all Online Tournaments Tracked
- 📊 View player's ROI and Profits
- 📊 Tournament Selection, Collusion Detection
- 📊 Free Leaderboards & SNG Guides
- 📊 Plus SharkScope Desktop - your personal HUD
- 📊 And much more!

GLOBAL TRACKING

— Profit Excluding Rake

AVOID THE SHARKS



NEW SUBSCRIBERS RECEIVE 10% EXTRA SEARCHES

USE BONUS CODE: **CPMAG**



www.sharkscope.com

RISKING IT ALL WITH TENS

By Jonathan Little

In a recent \$10,000 buy-in tournament, an overly loose, splashy player limped from the hijack seat and a good, loose-aggressive player raised to 3.25 big blinds from the cutoff. Another good, loose-aggressive player then three-bet to 12.5 big blinds from the small blind. All of these players started with about 150 big blinds.

I looked down at 10-10 in the big blind. With my 60-big blind stack, I have a few options.

Folding is by far the most prudent option, but also the weakest. It is nearly impossible that at least one of my opponents are loose and aggressive. If the three-bettor was especially tight, folding would become much more reasonable.

Cold calling may have some merit, given I will be in position against the three-bettor, but that may result in a cascade of calls which will usually not work well for me because I will likely only be able to realize my equity when I flop a set.

Notice that strictly set mining is not profitable because I am not getting anywhere near the required 10:1 implied odds. Calling also allows the three-bettor to realize his equity with his marginal hands and bluffs that would fold to a four-bet. In general, cold calling with stacks shallower than 100 big blinds is a poor play.

I could four-bet to 22.5 big blinds or so, looking to fold to



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

A large advertisement for Poker Coaching. At the top, the logo "POKER COACHING" is displayed in green and white. Below the logo, a smiling man wearing a dark cap and a t-shirt with the Poker Coaching logo is shown holding a large, ornate trophy. To the left of the man is a yellow starburst graphic with the text "100% FREE". To the right, the text "LEVEL UP IN JUST 5 DAYS" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, the words "TOURNAMENT CHALLENGE" are written in large, bold, green letters. Below this, the text "Try for Free at PokerCoaching.com/tournamentchallenge" is displayed in white.

an all-in, but that is not a good play because I will be getting excellent odds to call off. If the person who pushes all-in ever has A-K (or any bluff), then folding is a disaster.

Finally, I could go all-in. The main downside to this play is that when someone has A-A through J-J, I will get called every time and will be in horrible shape. However, this should not happen too often, assuming my assessment of the opponents' strategies is correct.

The initial raiser is likely raising with a bit more than his normal raising range in order to play heads-up in position against the splashy limper. The three-bettor may be three-betting wider than normal because he expects the initial raiser to be wider than normal.

If the three-bettor has a range containing about 65% "bluffs" that will fold to my all-in, going all-in wins about three big blinds, which is a significant profit. Even if he is three-betting on the tighter side, going all-in roughly breaks even. The main time going all-in is bad is when one of the three players has an especially tight range that will call most of the time, but that is not the case here.

After considering all my somewhat marginal options, I decided to go all-in. The three-bettor quickly called with K-K and I was out.

In retrospect, there were perhaps a few tiny things I could have noticed that may have allowed me to fold, but then again, I may just be looking for some sort of justification. The raiser's sizing was quite small, to only 3.25 big blinds. That size gives me in the big blind and the limper a decent price to call, meaning the raiser will rarely win the pot pre-flop. This means that the raiser may have a stronger range than I expected.

Also, the three-bettor made it quite large, to 12.5 big blinds. While that sizing is certainly not gigantic or out of line, it may polarize his range. This means the three-bettor either has a premium hand that will call my all-in every time or a junky hand that will easily fold. If the three-bettor's range happens to be weighted towards value hands because he views the previous 3.25 big blind raise as strong, then my all-in may be quite poor.

That said, I am fine with my play. It is high-risk and high-variance, but sometimes, that is what you have to do to maximize equity. Sometimes maximizing equity results in ruin.

If you want more resources to help you improve your game, I put together a course called *Master the Fundamentals*. This course covers the basics, preflop, post-flop, multiway, turn and river strategy, and much more. This course is completely free inside *Card Player* Poker School!

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

- Free Downloadable GTO Preflop Charts
- Video Classes
- Interactive Hand Quizzes
- 25 Biggest Leaks And How To Fix Them
- The Five-Day Preflop Challenge
- Plus Free Training Every Week!



Jonathan Little is a WSOP bracelet winner, two-time WPT winner, and PokerGO Cup champion. The best-selling author of 15 educational poker books and 2019 GPI Poker Personality of the Year wants to help you increase your poker skills and learn to crush the games. Check out PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open
\$5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Stephen Song
10,125,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 28%
After Flop: None
After Turn: None



Jeremy Wien
5,700,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 70%
After Flop: None
After Turn: None

PREFLOP

With five players remaining and blinds of 75,000-150,000 with a big blind ante of 150,000, Stephen Song raised to 300,000 from the button. Wien three-bet to 875,000 from the small blind. Song four-bet to 1,500,000. Wien five-bet shoved for 5,700,000 total, and Song folded.

COMMENTARY:

Stephen Song was able to open a very wide range on the button in this spot, having both players in the blinds covered. Sitting on close to 70 big blinds, with each player behind him having around 40 big blinds, and another player on about 24, Song was in a premium spot for putting pressure on his opponents. The ICM considerations should see them fold considerably more often than they would if playing purely for chip equity. As a result, K-3 suited aces get mixed into the three-betting range from the small blind here. They block strong hands and don't have any appeal as calls since they flop poorly. Jeremy Wien went for it, and Andjelko Andrejevic woke up with pocket fours in the big blind. This hand makes for a decent four-bet all-in if the small blind is out of line with their three-betting frequency, but Andrejevic opted for a reasonable fold instead. With action back on Song, a GTO strategy would use small aces and kings, both suited and offsuit, as his four-bet bluffs. Almost all of them are mixed in the solver, though it prefers jamming the suited ones and raise-folding the offsuit ones. Song went for the bluff, only to run into a five-bet re-bluff from Wien. It was a high-risk maneuver, since the players were staring at a pay jump of almost \$60,000 with two shorter stacks in play. The solver only likes using suited hands here since they have more equity when called, but Wien was rewarded for having some heart. He got Song to muck in a spot where he couldn't have known he had a dominating holding.

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

Punt Of The Day: Chip Leaders Collide

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.

In May, I returned to Montenegro for the first time since 2019. I was excited to return. It's a beautiful property right on the ocean, and historically, a quick dip before play starts has been lucky for me.

It was that 2019 visit when I made the final table of three tournaments, including the main event, but like any poker stop, the line between a winning and losing trip is razor thin.

In the first tournament, I had a chip lead on the money bubble at a final table with a couple of micro stacks. I re-shoved Q-9 suited into Steve O'Dwyer's Q-Q and I had to settle for a min-cash. Steve won the tournament.

In the third tournament, I bubbled when Leon Tsoukernik called my shove in Short Deck with 6-6 (a really bad hand in Short Deck).

I had already busted two bullets in the main event and engaged in my most professional behavior — calculating what place I'd need to finish on the third bullet in order to get in the black on the trip. I looked down at Q-J suited.



Mikita Badziakouski

Danny Tang had raised from middle position, and while I am not the biggest live read guy, I looked at him and thought, "I've never seen someone look so at peace in my life."

I had 30 big blinds in the small blind and reconsidered. "You're being crazy, Danny has played a ton of live poker, Q-J suited is always a shove here. Don't be an idiot."

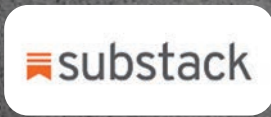
I shoved and cracked his A-A, and the next day I was nearly the chip leader at the nine-handed final table.

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.

Get 'The Punt Of The Day' For FREE



www.puntoftheday.com



So, I decided to analyze some hands I misplayed at this final table. Consider it a sort of virtual sage-burning to cleanse my poker soul at the site where I punted six years ago.

Event: 2019 Triton Montenegro HKD 1,000,000 (-\$125,000 USD) Main Event

The Hand

With blinds of 25,000-50,000 with a 50,000 big blind ante and nine players left at the final table, I was sitting on 2,700,000. The average was 2,080,000, and Mikita Badziakowski had me slightly covered with 2,800,000.

Mikita raised to 110,000 from under-the-gun, and I called from the button with K♦ 6♦. The blinds folded.

Flop: J♠ 4♣ 3♦ (Pot: 345,000)

Mikita bet 110,000, and I called.

Turn: K♣ (Pot: 565,000)

Mikita bet 300,000, and I called.

River: 2♦ (Pot: 1,165,000)

This time Mikita checked. I bet 1,000,000, and he called with K♠ Q♦ to take the pot.

What Was I Thinking?

I thought Mikita would be opening wide as the chip leader, but playing tight and cooperatively post-flop. I also thought that I would be flatting hands as strong as Q-Q, which would allow me to make some more speculative flats on the button.

On the flop, I thought king high, a backdoor flush draw and a backdoor straight draw was enough to continue versus a small bet.

On the turn I had top pair, but wasn't interested in raising or folding, and never considered another option.

I believed that Mikita would always or almost always

bet the river with a better hand than mine, so I believed I had a ton of pot equity and that I could make a large river bet. I bet one million chips and was dreaming of having at least 3 million and maybe 4 million chips in my stack, but I got Mikita-Rolled when he called with K-Q after 30 seconds in the tank.

(Note: Mikita is a deliberate player. A Mikita-Roll is when you value bet, he tanks for long enough that you believe you 100% have the best hand, and then he calls with a better hand. The all-time Mikita-Roll was at the final table of an *APPT* High Roller in Macau: I shoved six big blinds on the button with 10-8 suited, and he asked for a count from the big blind despite being the chip leader, before calling with A-Q offsuit.)

What I Got Wrong

A fun thing about this hand. Mikita (UTG), Matthias Eibinger (LJ) and Bryn Kenney (CO) all had similar stack sizes, so when I ran a solve for this hand, I looked to see if I can play K-6 suited against any of their raises.

I can three-bet it versus Bryn's cutoff open, but it's a pure fold versus Mikita or Matthias. It appears that the solver needs K-9 suited to flat, but often three-bets K-8 suited.

That being said, the metagame of high rollers at the time involved some very loose pre flop play from chip leaders. It's possible that if 2019 Mikita was opening a lot of small pairs, suited connectors, offsuit aces, and suited kings, then flatting K-6 suited could be a fine play, especially since he'd almost certainly play looser against a three-bet than the solver.

The flop peel was good. I mix continues on the flop

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open
\$5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Stephen Song
10,175,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 70%
After Flop: 9%
After Turn: 5%



Jake Cody
20,525,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 30%
After Flop: 91%
After Turn: 95%

PREFLOP

With four players remaining and blinds of 75,000-150,000 with a big blind ante of 150,000, Stephen Song raised to 350,000 from UTG. Jake Cody called from big blind.



Cody checked, and Song bet 225,000. Cody called.



Both players checked.



Cody checked, and Song bet 900,000. Cody folded.

COMMENTARY:

Stephen Song picked up a good hand and opened with a raise into Jake Cody's big blind, a situation in which ICM dictates tighter-than-normal ranges due to the presence of a player with 22 big blinds. Song had a mandatory continuation bet on the flop with his entire range, and sized down accordingly. In theory, Cody should be calling with his worst king-high hands and raising some of his better ones. He responded accordingly with K-4. Both players had a natural check on the turn. It is worth noting that a common three-barrel bluff that many miss in this spot (from Song's perspective) is using pocket pairs with a heart. He didn't have one in this instance so he opted to check, but it's important to remember that play if one wants to be balanced on these runouts. The queen on the turn was really bad for Song's actual hand, as some of Cody's weaker peels on the flop could now have him almost drawing dead. At that point, he was most likely ready to be done with the hand, but a possible bluffing opportunity arose on the river. Cody checked over to him, and Song found himself at the bottom of his range with a hand that lacked any real showdown value. He could credibly represent a ton of hands with a 10 in them, as most of those (Q-10, J-10, etc.) would also check the turn. The solver prefers to check back sevens in hopes of beating a hand like a pair of sixes, but it also bluffs with 7-6 suited here, which isn't really that different. The question of sizing is interesting, too. Using an overbet to represent a straight could force some more folds from the big blind, but the computer likes lumping its entire betting range into one size, and Song nailed it. He was rewarded when Cody folded the exact type of hand he was targeting, a weaker one-pair holding.

NOTE: WINNING PERCENTAGES DO NOT INCLUDE TIES. ODDS PROVIDED BY CardPlayer.com/poker-tools/odds-calculator/texas-holdem

with K-10 and K-9 with a backdoor, but K-6 suited has some special powers they don't. I have so little 6-x in my pre flop range that if I backdoor a straight, my hand will be really under-represented, especially on the 5-2 runout where I can get in a lot of money against wheels.

K-6 is a good bluffing hand on turns like ace, queen, jack, or 10 that hit my other floats. The flop call isn't making much, but is fine.

On the turn, I didn't consider any other options.

I should have considered other options on the river, however. I was in a spot in the tournament where I don't want to value bet thin. I don't have many bluffs, and I risk losing my table position if I'm called by a better hand.

Also, he doesn't have many credible river check-calls. My pre flop range is tight enough that he can't check-call the river with ace high, so he needs to have a low pair like A-4, A-3, or A-2, a hand like J-x, or a mid pocket pair that bets on the flop and turn. But he rarely has those hands.

The main reason why value betting my hand doesn't lose that much EV is because, in solver land, my range is supposed to be tight enough that I generate folds from hands like K-Q. So not only was my river strategy a fundamental and exploitative disaster, the Mikita-Roll was totally justified!

He had a neutral-EV bluff catcher and tanked before calling. If he knew my river strategy, he should have snap-called in the way you snap-call with the A♥ in a \$2-\$5 game when someone goes all-in on a board of 7♥ 9♥ 10♥ J♥. If they have a straight flush, it's just bad luck.

This was not "just bad luck" for Mikita, who got a nice

gift from me. Check out my Substack to see if it was the only one I gave him at this final table. (It wasn't.)

Types Of Errors Made

- Too Much Money
- ICM is for rich people, because they cash tournaments

Grade

A lot of the biggest punts in poker come from confidently making an assumption and proceeding without asking, "But what if I'm wrong?"

My pre flop, flop, and turn plays in this hand are all on the edge, but fine. My river play is the real costly one.

I started with a ridiculous assumption -- what if one of the best poker players in the world never checked the river strong? And then I compounded that by not asking, "If he never has a strong hand, what's the best way to squeeze out some value against a weak bluff-catcher?" And then I bet a size that was way too large.

This was a poorly played hand and a costly one. My grade is a D. ♠



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.

SPICE UP YOUR HOME GAME: BADEUCEY AND BADACEY

By Kevin Haney

Triple Draw Lowball variants are favored cornerstones of home games and casino mixed cash game action. Deuce-to-Seven and Ace-to-Five Triple Draw, and to a slightly lesser extent Badugi, are widely embraced as great one-winner gambling games even among those still harboring some resentment that their proliferation helped spur the demise of H.O.R.S.E. (Hold'em; Omaha Eight or Better; Razz; Stud; Stud Eight or Better) cash games.

However, for whatever reason Badeucey and Badacey are often not afforded the same level of respect and sometimes labeled as "carnival" games, a term not meant to be endearing. While they are simply split-pot variants combining Triple Draw Lowball and Badugi, they may have originally been viewed as short-term fads devised to separate tourists from their money.

Even if this was originally true, these games have clearly stood the test of time. Some players may be willing to give them a try but are hesitant since they don't know the rules or basic strategy, an issue we can try and address here.

In **Badeucey** the object is to make the best deuce-to-seven low (straights count against you) and the superior badugi. The ace is a bad card as it's considered high for both sides making 2-3-4-5 the best possible badugi and 2♣ 3♥ 4♠ 5♦ 7♠ a two-way nut holding.

As in all split-pot games, we aspire to scoop, and that typically means playing starting hands that can build eight-or-better lows and badugis. Making a badugi is important and early in the hand it's often correct to focus on that side at the possible expense of the five-card low to try and freeroll your opponent.

A survey of starting hand types would include the following, where the parentheses indicate differing suits, e.g. 2♣ 4♥ 5♥ 7♠ would be represented as (2-4-7)5:

- (2-4-6-7) 5 and (2-3-5-8) 6 – Dealt pat monsters with both a premium low and badugi
- (2-3-4-7) and (3-4-5-8) – Extremely strong; a dealt badugi only needing a low complementing card which will sometimes also improve the badugi
- (2-4-7) 5 and (2-3-4) 8 – Strong holdings that should often be played as one-card draws
- (2-4-7) 8 – Option to draw one but taking two to (2-4-7) is usually best especially in a multi-way pot
- (2-3-5), (2-6-7), and (2-5-8) – Most frequent starting hand type; rainbow versions of highly playable Deuce-to-Seven holdings
- (3-4-5), (3-4-6), (3-5-6) – These hands lack a deuce and can pick up straight draws but the potential to make a premium badugi makes these hands eminently more playable than in straight Deuce-to-Seven

- (3-4-7), (3-5-7), (3-4-8), (3-5-8), (4-5-7) – Mediocre hands; middle or late position opens
- (5-6-7), (3-7-8), (5-7-8) - Examples of late position steals, but can be trouble hands in raised or multi-way pots
- (2-3) 7, (2-3) 4, (2-3) 5 – Steal hands where the accompanying card is valuable enough to keep for the five-card low
- (2-3), (2-4), (2-5) – Button opens or defending from blinds

Notice that the list above doesn't contain any nines; when starting with a hand as $2\clubsuit 3\heartsuit 5\diamond 9\spadesuit J\spadesuit$ we should typically break the badugi and draw two trying to make a strong two-way holding and preserve our implied odds. Keeping the nine caps our potential in both directions and over the course of three draws the odds are in our favor to make something better anyway.

On the first draw alone, there is around a 57% chance of improvement represented as follows:

- 4% - Both an eight-or-better low and badugi e.g. (2-3-5-8) 6
- 14% - Eight-or-better badugi e.g. (2-3-5-7)
- 5% - No improvement on badugi but eight-or-better low e.g. (2-3-5) 6-8
- 34% - Four-card eight-or-better, but no badugi e.g. (2-3-5) 7

After the first draw, we have the option to keep any improvement towards making an eight low even when it doesn't complete a badugi. At showdown a holding of $2\clubsuit 3\heartsuit 5\diamond 7\heartsuit 8\clubsuit$ is a contender to win either side and on your good days it can win everything with a good three-card badugi and eight low.

The most common beginner leak to avoid is entering raised multi-way pots with rough top heavy trouble hands such as $4\diamond 6\heartsuit 7\clubsuit$ and $3\clubsuit 7\heartsuit 8\diamond$ where many of the cards they need may already be out and can easily make second best even when they get lucky. Another common mistake is playing a one-way hand such as $3\spadesuit 5\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 7\heartsuit$ that looks reasonable but is very weak.

A hand like $2\spadesuit 3\heartsuit 5\spadesuit 7\heartsuit$ is far superior in that it has a deuce and vastly more potential. These hands might be underappreciated by some since it appears that they can't scoop, but that overlooks the possibility of pairing (which can open up badugi possibilities) or winning it all with a premium three-card badugi and a very good low.

Lesser one-way hands such as $2\spadesuit 3\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 8\heartsuit$ can be a late position steal where we are mostly hoping to win either right then and there (we do have four low blockers) or early on without a showdown. Should that not occur, we do have six pairing cards ($2\clubsuit, 2\diamond, 3\clubsuit, 3\diamond, 6\clubsuit, 6\diamond$) that would give us a legitimate two-way draw, or we could simply end up making a decent low and salvage half.

Similarly, **Badacey** is a combination of Ace-to-Five Triple Draw and Badugi where aces are now good thus a nut/nut holding would be $A\clubsuit 2\heartsuit 3\clubsuit 4\diamond 5\spadesuit$. In this game a "seven-seven," a seven low with a seven badugi will win many pots but since sevens are not as strong in Badacey as eights are in Badeucey we should usually start out trying to build stronger holdings.

As such any unsuited three-card six or better is generally playable with a few caveats. Opening from an early position or calling raises with top heavy hands such as 3-4-6 or 4-5-6 may create some problems. And when the pot has been raised and three-bet in front of you it's

probably best to send holdings even as strong as 3-4-5 or A-5-6 to the muck.

Smooth three-card sevens are playable from late position and make no mistake we should virtually always keep the seven when it helps on the badugi side. When opening $A\clubsuit 3\heartsuit 7\spadesuit$ in straight Ace-to-Five some would advocate drawing three (I'm taking two), but we should always keep this seven in Badacey. Judgment is required when the seven is not part of the badugi, with a holding such as $A\clubsuit 3\heartsuit 4\spadesuit 7\spadesuit$ it might be best to draw two in multi-way pots but keep the seven when heads-up.


Badeucey (Rating: 9) and/or **Badacey** (Rating: 8) are great additions to any mix as they check many of the important boxes. They are relatively easy to explain to newcomers, the action is frequently lively, and seasoned players appreciate the challenge of playing them well. The games offer all the strategic considerations of other high-low games such as pulling players in or tactfully eliminating opponents but with the additional responsibility of making effective drawing decisions. ♠




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

Poker Tools | 'pōkər toōls |

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





Card Player THE POKER AUTHORITY

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

POKER AND MURDER

By Scott J. Burnham

It will be a few years before we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the poker boom, but there is a 25th anniversary this year that I would like to acknowledge.

In 2000, a freelance writer from Chicago named Jim McManus was hired by *Harper's Weekly* magazine to write an article on the *World Series of Poker*, focusing on women in poker. An amateur card player but an avid student of the game, McManus arrived in Las Vegas and promptly used the money from his advance to finance \$1,000 satellites in hopes of winning a seat to the main event.

Spoiler alert — he was successful in this endeavor and became one of a whopping 651 entrants in that year's event, which was still held at Binion's Horseshoe downtown. Amazingly, he fought his way to the final table, highlights of which you can see in the PokerGO archives. Of course, in those days they did not have hole cameras (that invention coincided not coincidentally with the poker boom) so it is not very exciting to watch the action, but it is a kick to see what the tournament was like in the old days, including the smoking at the table. It is also a different style of poker, almost completely dependent on winning with premium cards with few bluffs and rare three-bets.

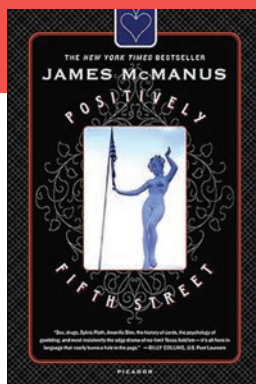
This would be of minor interest except that McManus captured the story in one of the best poker books ever written, *Positively Fifth Street*. I read the book when it came out and decided I would re-read it in celebration of the anniversary of that endeavor. Well, not quite — I decided I would listen to it read by the author in the Audible version. I quickly discovered that I had not read the fine print — what I was listening to was an abridged version of the book. That was a big disappointment, so if you want to get the full flavor of the story and digressions into numerous aspects of the game, you have to actually read the book. The good news is that unlike most poker books (no names will be mentioned here), it is written by someone with some literary flair so it is a delightful read.

What makes the book particularly interesting is the inclusion of the trial of Rick Tabish and Sandra Murphy for the murder of Ted Binion, son of Horseshoe founder Benny Binion, which was going on at the same time as the *WSOP*. One might cringe as he becomes seduced (not literally) by Teddy's sister Becky Binion Behnen and her son Benny, but McManus is only human so we can forgive him this lapse as well as for his attendance at gentlemen's clubs for research.

Those who were not born at the time all this happened might not know that Becky wrested control of the Horseshoe from her brother Jack and proceeded to run it into the ground. But maybe that is not a bad thing, considering that she would ultimately sell the *WSOP* to Caesars, who steered the series into the modern era.

There are a lot of "Poker and ..." books, like poker and law, poker and Zen, poker and game theory, etc., but I don't think there is another that looks at poker and murder.

The shifting between poker and murder can be jarring



but also raises some interesting connections. The well-planned murder requires planning and execution, but there is also a good bit of luck involved. And to avoid suspicion, it requires a consistent story and effective bluffing. Are Tabish and Murphy as good at murder as many of the characters we encounter in the book are at poker? The outcome may surprise you, but you will have to look outside the book to see what happened after.

One of my favorite moments in the book describes a confrontation between McManus and T.J. Cloutier. Co-authoring with Tom McEvoy, Cloutier had written one of the few tournament strategy books available at the time, *Championship No-Limit and Pot-Limit Hold'em*. (I happen to have an autographed copy in my library.)

One of the memorable lines is, "To win a no-limit tournament, you have to win with A-K and you have to beat A-K." That is certainly a true statement — but what exactly do you do with it? Anyway, throughout the tournament, McManus had relied on Cloutier's book to guide his strategy and now here he was face-to-face with his mentor! I was reminded of the scene in the movie *Patton* when Patton bests Rommel in a tank battle and proclaims, "Rommel, you magnificent bastard, I read your book!"

McManus ended up at another final table in 2004. In a notorious incident, he was put on tilt by the behavior of Ellix Powers, a sometime street person. At one point this led McManus to call down Powers with just queen high.

After scooping the chips, Powers left the table and wandered through the casino and out to the street, proclaiming, "He called me with jack high!" a meme that soon appeared on t-shirts. You can find the video of the incident by searching "He called me with jack high." It was not McManus's finest moment, but he later became more sympathetic to Powers.

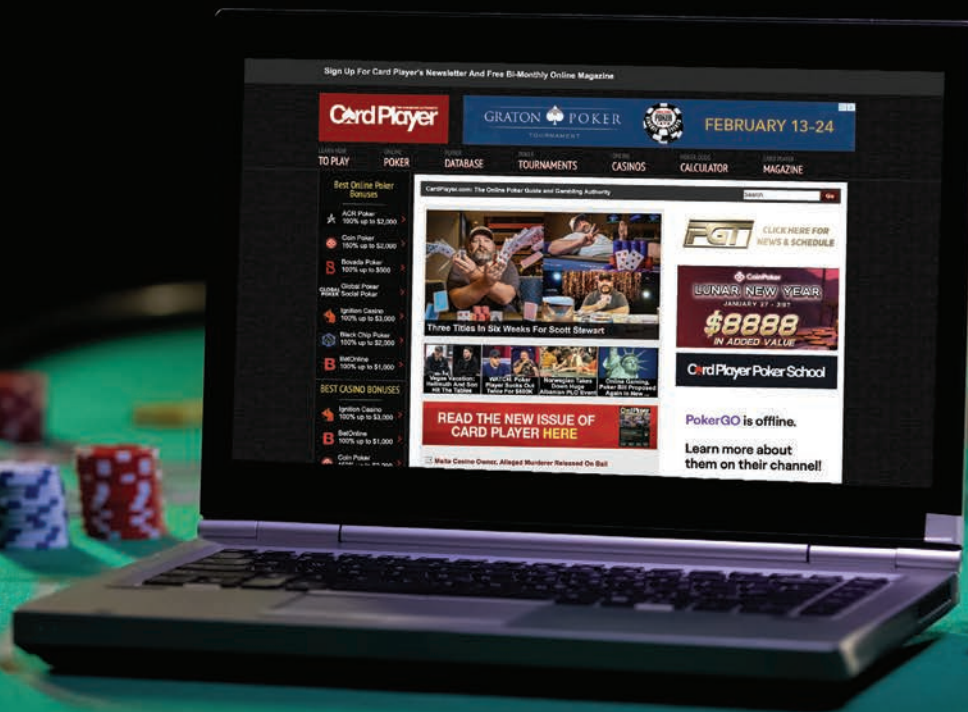
"The endlessly replayed clash between us is probably the lowlight of my poker career, and the highlight of his," McManus said. "Ellix Powers was a good man who deserved to make more final tables and many more days in the sun."

Thank you, Jim, for those kind words and for giving us a poker book that has managed to hold up for the last quarter of a century. ♠



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

CARD PLAYER. THE POKER AUTHORITY.



NEWS AND FEATURES

Catch up with the latest poker news, event recaps, player interviews, and strategy columns, as well as up-to-date reports from all over the gambling industry.

TOURNAMENT LISTINGS

Whether you are planning for your next tournament or checking the results from your last, Card Player has it with more than 1.6 million events and counting.

PLAYER DATABASE

Search through over 500,000 players with a full database of results, photos, videos, hand histories, news, and statistics.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Card Player has not only had the most distinguished POY award since 1997, but also tracks many other poker player, casino, and tour leaderboards.

POKER TOOLS

Learn the math and check your play with the Card Player poker odds calculator, available for hold'em, Omaha, stud, razz, deuce-to-seven, and eight-or-better variations.

SCHEDULES

FOR COMPLETE TOURNAMENT RESULTS AND LISTINGS, VISIT CARDPLAYER.COM

SEPTEMBER	Sept. 2-Oct. 5	DeepStack Extravaganza III	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Sept. 11-22	WSOP Circuit - Chicago	Horseshoe Casino ■ Hammond, IN
	Sept. 17-Oct. 8	World Series of Poker Europe	Kings Casino ■ Rozvadov, Czech Republic
	Sept. 18-21	Florida State Ladies Poker Championship	bestbet ■ Jacksonville, FL
	Sept. 18-28	Card Player Poker Tour	The Reserve Poker Club ■ Toledo, OH
	Sept. 18-29	WSOP Circuit - Southern Indiana	Caesars Southern Indiana ■ Elizabeth, IN
	Sept. 19-Oct. 2	Poker Masters	ARIA PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Sept. 25-Oct. 6	WSOP Circuit - Thunder Valley	Thunder Valley Casino & Resort ■ Lincoln, CA
	Sept. 25-Oct. 14	Trailblazer Poker Tour	Texas Card House ■ Dallas & Las Colinas, TX
	Sept. 28	Greater Orange Park Open	bestbet ■ Orange Park, FL
OCTOBER	Oct. 2-13	WSOP Circuit - Maryland	Horseshoe Casino ■ Baltimore, MD
	Oct. 9-20	WSOP Circuit - Florida	Harrah's Casino & Resort ■ Pompano Beach, FL
	Oct. 10-12	October Poker Weekend	Turning Stone Casino & Resort ■ Verona, NY
	Oct. 10-22	PGT PLO Series II	ARIA PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Oct. 17-Nov. 2	WPT Bay 101 Shooting Star	Bay 101 ■ San Jose, CA
	Oct. 23-29	Super High Roller Bowl	ARIA PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Oct. 23-Nov. 3	WSOP Circuit - Lake Tahoe	Caesars Republic Lake Tahoe ■ Lake Tahoe, NV
	Oct. 29-Nov. 9	WSOP Circuit - Choctaw	Choctaw Casino Resort ■ Durant, OK
Oct. 30-Nov. 18	WPT bestbet Scramble	bestbet ■ Jacksonville, FL	
NOVEMBER	Nov. 6-17	WSOP Circuit - Chicago	Grand Victoria Casino ■ Elgin, IL
	Nov. 6-16	Fall Poker Round Up	Wildhorse Resort & Casino ■ Pendleton, OR
	Nov. 10-23	Trailblazer Poker Tour	Texas Card House ■ Spring, 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

CALIFORNIA

GRATON - ROHNERT PARK

MONDAY

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

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$65

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$65

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

WEDNESDAY

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

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$65

THURSDAY

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

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$200 KO \$25 (\$5K Guarantee)

FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$200 KO \$25 (\$5K Guarantee)

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$250 KO \$100 (\$5K Guarantee)

OCEAN'S ELEVEN - OCEANSIDE

MONDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$130

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$125 KO \$25

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$155 KO \$25

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

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$130

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$125 KO \$25

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$155 KO \$25

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

FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$130

SATURDAY

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

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

FLORIDA

BESTBET - JACKSONVILLE

MONDAY
7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100
WEDNESDAY
12:00 p.m. NLH, \$100
FRIDAY
12:00 p.m. NLH, \$200
SUNDAY
12:00 p.m. NLH, \$200

BESTBET - ORANGE PARK

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

BESTBET - ST. AUGUSTINE

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

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

OHIO

RESERVE POKER ROOM- TOLEDO

MONDAY
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$85 AO \$20
TUESDAY
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$55 AO \$20
WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$65 AO \$30 (\$5K Guarantee)
FRIDAY
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$0 AO \$20 (\$4K Gurantee)
SATURDAY
3:00 p.m. NLH, \$130 RB \$100 AO \$40 (\$10K Guarantee)
SUNDAY
1:00 p.m. NLH, \$100 AO \$20

OREGON

WILDHORSE - PENDLETON

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

POKERCOACHING

**LEVEL UP
IN JUST
5 DAYS**

**100%
FREE**

**CASH GAME
CHALLENGE**

Try for Free at PokerCoaching.com/cashgamechallenge



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.



NEW TO POKER?

Check Out *Card Player's* complete online manual for beginners which includes general rules, hand rankings, odds calculators, game procedures, and a quick-start guide that will have you playing and winning fast.

POKERGO PODCAST

DONNIE PETERS & TIM DUCKWORTH



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

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



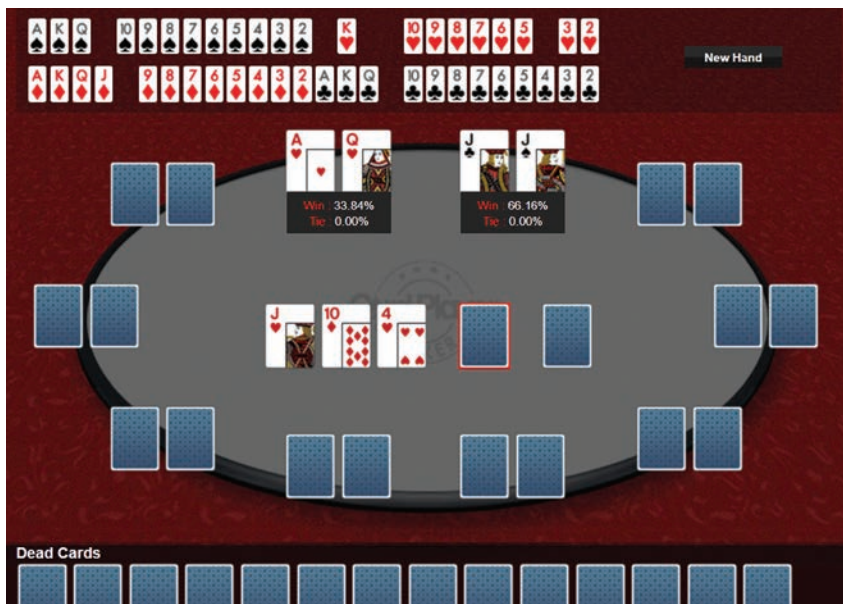
SCAN TO LISTEN



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



POKER ODDS



Who was the favorite? How big of an underdog were you? Satisfy all your burning poker math questions with the *Card Player* Poker Odds Calculator. Available for free with hold'em, Omaha, Omaha eight-or-better, stud, stud eight-or-better, razz, and 2-7 lowball.



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%



DO YOU WANT TO PLAY IN THE

PGT **\$1,000,000**
CHAMPIONSHIP

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO WIN A DREAM SEAT TO QUALIFY TO PLAY IN THE PGT \$1,000,000 CHAMPIONSHIP FREEROLL ALONGSIDE THE TOP 40 ELIGIBLE PLAYERS ON THE PGT LEADERBOARD:

- **POKERGO ANNUAL SUBSCRIBER DRAWING**
 - **POKERGO SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST ON GLEAM.IO**
 - **POKERGO PODCAST DRAWING ON GLEAM.IO**
 - **QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONS CLUB TEXAS CHAMPIONSHIP**
 - **BE A RUNGOOD POKER SERIES EVENT WINNER**
- DO YOU WATCH POKERGO? ARE YOU AN ANNUAL OR VIP SUBSCRIBER? IF YOU'RE A POKERGO ANNUAL OR VIP SUBSCRIBER ON NOVEMBER 1, YOU ARE IN THE DRAWING TO WIN ONE OF THREE DREAM SEATS AVAILABLE.
 - COMPLETE POKERGO AND PGT SOCIAL MEDIA-BASED TASKS TO EARN TICKETS TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING PICKED ON THE NOVEMBER 1 DRAWING. ENTER THE CONTEST AT [PGT.COM/GLEAM](https://pgt.com/gleam)
 - LISTEN TO THE POKERGO PODCAST AND COMPLETE SOCIAL MEDIA-BASED TASKS TO EARN TICKETS TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING PICKED ON THE NOVEMBER 1 DRAWING. ENTER THE CONTEST AT [PGT.COM/GLEAMPOD](https://pgt.com/gleampod)
 - EARN POINTS IN TOURNAMENTS AT CHAMPIONS CLUB IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, AND QUALIFY AS ONE OF THE TOP 40 PLAYERS TO PLAY IN THE CHAMPIONS CLUB TEXAS CHAMPIONSHIP. THE PRIZE POOL IS MORE THAN \$50,000 AND EVERY PLAYER WILL CASH. THE WINNER WILL TAKE HOME A DREAM SEAT.
 - 2023, 2024, AND 2025 RING WINNERS FROM THE RUNGOOD POKER SERIES WILL QUALIFY FOR THE SEASON-ENDING RGPS DREAM SEAT INVITATIONAL WHERE THE WINNER WILL EARN A DREAM SEAT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WINNING A DREAM SEAT, VISIT [PGT.COM/DREAM-SEAT](https://pgt.com/dream-seat). TO VIEW THE RULES FOR ALL THE COMPETITIONS, VISIT [POKERGO.COM/RULES](https://pokergo.com/rules).

FORCE THEM OUT OR KEEP THEM IN?

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



You are eight-handed in a \$10,000 buy-in tournament, and your stack is 96,000 at blinds of 1,500-3,000. The loose-aggressive lojack raises to 7,000 and it folds to you on the button with 8♦ 8♠.

Question 1: Should you fold, call, reraise to 21,000, or go all-in?

Answer: You should typically lean towards calling with your small and medium pairs. If you three-bet and get four-bet, your 8-8 will not be able to handle the pressure. Instead, call and try to flop well enough.

You call and the flop comes K♠ 5♥ 3♣. Your opponent bets 5,500.

Question 2: Should you fold, call, raise to 14,000, or raise to 21,000?

Answer: Many weak players fold when they fail to improve to a set and an overcard comes on the flop, but that would be far too weak, especially when your opponent uses a small bet size.

You are getting more than 5:1 pot odds, plus you could easily have the best hand. Instead of raising for value and protection, which may result in your opponent's continuing range being quite strong, call and see what develops.

You call and the turn is the 8♣. Your opponent bets 30,000.

Question 3: Should you fold, call, raise to 60,000, or go all-in?

Answer: When you improve to a set, you have the effective nuts. While it would be great to get all-in immediately against top pair or charge a draw, it is quite easy for your opponent to have a total bluff that you really want to keep in the pot. While calling will occasionally result in you getting outdrawn, it is worth the risk in order to force your opponent to stay in.

If your opponent was instead an overly tight player who would only use a large bet on the turn with a premium made hand or draw, then you should go all in to ensure you stack them in case the river gets scary.

You call and the river is the 6♥. Your opponent goes all in for 60,000.

Question 4: Should you fold or call all in?

Answer: Calling is your only option. Folding sets on uncoordinated boards is pretty much always incorrect.

You call and beat your opponent's A♦ 4♦. They had four outs to beat you, but a whole lot of other cards that would result in them bluffing off their stack. The risk was definitely worth the potential reward. ♠



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



FOOTBALL FRENZY

STARTING SEPT. 4TH

MONDAY, THURSDAY & SUNDAY AFTERNOON GAMES

GUESS THE FINAL SCORE, WIN \$2,500

GAME SCORE DRAWINGS

\$200 EVERY TOUCHDOWN / \$100 EVERY FIELD GOAL

**EARN DOUBLE CASH DRAWING TICKETS
DURING FOOTBALL QUALIFYING HOURS**

SUNDAYS 12PM - 7:30PM // MONDAYS & THURSDAYS 5PM - 7:30PM

\$2 DRAFT BEER

\$1 STADIUM FOOD

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

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY ON ALL PROMOTIONS. MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY OR CANCEL ANY PROMOTION AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION.
PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY. 1-800-GAMBLER. GEAR-000859, GEAR-001058

PLUG YOUR LEAKS. **FOR FREE.**



NEW + FREE

Card Player Poker School

FREE DOWNLOADABLE CHARTS

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

FREE GTO PREFLOP CHARTS

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

FREE CLASSES

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

FREE DOWNLOADABLE E-BOOKS

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

FREE INTERACTIVE HAND QUIZZES

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

FREE COURSES

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

CardPlayer.PokerCoaching.com/Courses

