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Mixed-Games Master
Reflects On Historic Summer



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DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT #	EVENT	BUY IN	GUARANTEE
Friday	11/14/2025	12:00 PM		15K GTD 1 Day NLH	\$300	\$15,000
		5:00 PM	1A	100K GTD PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
		9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
Saturday	11/15/2025	10:00 AM		Kickstarter Turbo Satellite	\$75	\$520
		12:00 PM	1B	100K GTD PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
		5:00 PM	1C	100K GTD PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
		9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		10:00 PM	1D	100K GTD (Turbo) PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
Sunday	11/16/2025	12:00 PM	1E	100K GTD PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
		5:00 PM	1F	100K GTD PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
		9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
Monday	11/17/2025	8:00 AM	1G	100K GTD (Turbo) PLO Multi-Flight/Multi-Bag	\$400	\$100,000
		12:00 PM		10K GTD 1 Day NLH	\$300	\$10,000
		3:00 PM	★ 1	Multi-Flight PLO Day 2		
		4:00 PM	2	\$500 BC PLO PKO	\$500	\$25,000
		7:00 PM		Milestone to Main Event	\$565	\$6,600
Tuesday	11/18/2025	9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		10:00 AM		Kickstarter Turbo Satellite into E#3	\$140	\$1,100
		12:00 PM		10K GTD 1 Day NLH	\$300	\$10,000
		3:00 PM	3	\$1,100 Monster Stack Pot Limit Omaha	\$1,100	\$100,000
		7:00 PM		Milestone to Main Event	\$565	\$6,600
Wednesday	11/19/2025	9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		10:00 AM		Kickstarter Turbo Satellite into E#4	\$140	\$1,100
		12:00 PM		10K GTD 1 Day NLH	\$300	\$10,000
		2:00 PM	★ 3	\$1,100 Pot Limit Omaha Day 2		
		3:00 PM	4	\$1,100 Quad BC PKO	\$1,100	\$50,000
Thursday	11/20/2025	7:00 PM		Milestone to Main Event	\$565	\$6,600
		9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		10:00 AM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		12:00 PM	5A	PGT PLO Main Event	\$3,300	\$1,000,000
		2:00 PM	★ 4	\$1,100 Quad BC PKO Day 2		
Friday	11/21/2025	4:00 PM	6	Big O	\$300	\$10,000
		7:00 PM		Milestone to Main Event	\$565	\$6,600
		9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		10:00 AM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		12:00 PM	★ 5B	PGT PLO Main Event	\$3,300	\$1,000,000
Saturday	11/22/2025	4:00 PM		Milestone to Main Event	\$565	\$6,600
		9:00 PM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		10:00 PM	5C	PGT PLO Main Event (Turbo)	\$3,300	\$1,000,000
		10:00 AM		Turbo Super Satellite to Main Event	\$250	\$3,300
		12:00 PM	★ 5D	PGT PLO Main Event	\$3,300	\$1,000,000
Sunday	11/23/2025	4:00 PM		Milestone to Main Event	\$565	\$6,600
		6:00 PM	7	PGT PLO High Roller #1	\$5,300	
		10:00 PM	5E	PGT PLO Main Event (Turbo)	\$3,300	\$1,000,000
		8:00 AM	5F	PGT PLO Main Event (Hyper Turbo)	\$3,300	\$1,000,000
		3:00 PM	★ 5	PGT PLO Main Event Day 2		
Monday	11/24/2025	6:00 PM	8	PGT PLO High Roller #2	\$5,300	
		12:00 PM		10K GTD 1 Day NLH	\$300	\$10,000
		2:00 PM	9	PGT PLO High Roller #3	\$5,300	
		TBD	★ 5	PGT PLO Main Event Final Table		
		7:00 PM	10	Monday Nightcap ROE PLO/NLH	\$200	\$10,000

★ = MAIN EVENT

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NEWS FROM THE GAMBLING WORLD

LEGISLATION TO REVERSE GAMBLING TAX PROVISION NIXED FROM DEFENSE BILL

By Sean Chaffin



Rep. Dina Titus, D-NV, failed in a recent attempt to attach her legislation that would change the new gambling tax provisions in President Donald Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" to the National Defense Authorization Act.

Titus filed the bill in July after Trump's spending bill passed. Those in the gambling industry were quick to point out that the latter bill made major changes to the tax code. Those changes sparked concern from poker players and other gamblers.

Previously, gamblers were able to deduct 100% of their losses on their tax returns. However, the new bill only allows 90% of a gambler's losses to be written off. As a result, gamblers could pay taxes on money they didn't win.

For example, a poker player wins a tournament for \$100,000 in January. Then, over the course of the year, loses \$100,000 playing other events.

The player did not have any taxable winnings. But under the new provisions, the player could only write off 90% of the \$100,000 in losses. Thus, the government would expect payment as if the player won \$10,000.

In response, Titus filed the FAIR BET Act. It stands for Fair Accounting for Income Realized from Betting Earnings Taxation. It would roll back that specific provision. Unless something changes, the new tax rules will go into effect at the start of 2026.

Consequently, Titus attempted to attach her bill to the National Defense Authorization Act as an amendment.

"Unfortunately, the GOP-controlled Rules Committee

did not accept the FAIR BET Act as an amendment to the NDAA," tweeted Titus. "This was an easy fix that should have been adopted. Nonetheless, I will continue to build support to restore 100% gambling loss deduction."

Attaching the act to the defense bill would've guaranteed passage and eliminate the time crunch she'll inevitably deal with trying to pass a bill in the last four months of the year.

It wouldn't have been the first time an influential gambling bill was slipped into a different piece of legislation as an amendment. In 2006, Sen. Bill Frist and Sen. Jon Kyl attached the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA) to the Safe Port Act.

The UIGEA was one of the legislative pieces used to prosecute online poker operators when the U.S. government cracked down on the industry in April 2011.

Now, Titus must pass the legislation as a standalone bill. That's a much tougher task, despite the bipartisan support after leaders in the casino industry sounded the alarm on the issue.

Rep. Andy Barr, R-KY, introduced the Winnings and Gains Expense Restoration (WAGER) Act to repeal the OBBB tax provision. The bill was referred to the House Ways and Means committee.

Prediction market Kalshi is taking bets on whether the gambling tax provision will be repealed. Those believing the provision would be reversed topped out at 68% on July 27, but dropped to just 22% after the Rules Committee blocked the attachment. ♠

KALSHI INKS PARTNERSHIPS WITH DANIEL NEGREANU, NFL ON FOX

By Steve Schult and Sean Chaffin



Despite legal trouble in a handful of states, Kalshi was busy in September, securing partnerships in the poker and sports world.

The prediction market platform announced partnerships with poker icon Daniel Negreanu and the NFL on FOX broadcast. The move gives Kalshi access to NFL and poker verticals the company didn't have before.

Kalshi has offered NFL prediction markets for a while, but the FOX deal gives the company two new perks. The ability to use FOX's NFL clips on Kalshi social media channels, and the use of FOX as a source to settle prediction markets. Additionally, former New York Jets quarterback and FOX commentator Mark Sanchez will promote the platform publicly.

The Negreanu partnership gives Kalshi similar benefits in the poker world.

Initially, Kalshi gets additional promotion from the seven-time *World Series of Poker* champion. In fact, Negreanu is running a drawing to celebrate the new deal.

Anyone who creates a new Kalshi account is entered into a drawing for a seat into the \$25,000 main event at *WSOP Paradise* this December, which includes nine nights at Atlantis Paradise Resort.

Negreanu's relationship with GGPoker might be the pathway to poker prediction markets on Kalshi.

In 2011, the Nevada Gaming Control Board allowed its state's sportsbooks to accept wagers on the outcome of the *WSOP* main event final table. The betting became mildly popular after the implementation of the "November Nine" format, where there was a four-month delay between setting the final table and playing to a winner.

But since sports betting was limited to in-person bets at a Silver State sportsbook, the market was incredibly small, and

never gained mainstream traction among gamblers.

Kalshi's prediction markets could fill that void.

In August 2024, Caesars Interactive Entertainment sold the *WSOP* brand to GGPoker's parent company. Negreanu is an ambassador for GGPoker and arguably the face of the company. Just like the FOX partnership, GGPoker could serve as the source to settle poker prediction markets, and the Negreanu partnership creates inroads for that to happen.

But this could all hinge on the outcome of Kalshi's legal challenges from several states.

Some claim Kalshi is operating an unlicensed online sportsbook and skirting state gambling laws. Nevada and New Jersey were the first to make this claim and filed suit against Kalshi.

However, Kalshi filed a legal motion against those states. Kalshi sought a preliminary injunction against the states' gambling regulators in federal court, arguing they were already regulated at the federal level by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Kalshi won the motions against New Jersey and Nevada, but lost a similar lawsuit to Maryland, and is awaiting results of an appeal. Massachusetts jumped on board as well, arguing the company is operating in the Bay State illegally.

In Negreanu's partnership announcement on his Instagram page, the Canadian was careful with the language he used. He used the term "trading" instead of "betting" and even specifically outlined the differences between Kalshi's prediction markets and a traditional sportsbook.

"It's not a sportsbook. Meaning you can get better odds," said Negreanu. "You won't get limited for winning too much. And you can trade in and out of positions even within games. And because it's a trading market, it's available in all 50 states." ♠

Tennis Legend Boris Becker Faced Threats For Prison Poker Debts

By Sean Chaffin

Six-time Grand Slam winner Boris Becker is releasing a memoir, and the book details his time behind bars.

While the German was incarcerated, he spent quite a bit of time playing poker with fellow inmates. As a result, the former PokerStars ambassador owed a few unsavory characters some cash.

Becker was convicted of tax evasion in 2022 in the United Kingdom and was sentenced to two and a half years in prison. However, the authorities released him after he served eight months.

In an interview with a German media outlet, Becker detailed a prison poker game that led to even more issues for the three-time Wimbledon champ.

Becker said poker offered a way to pass the time and get his mind off his surroundings. On the other hand, one game left him owing Romanian prison-

ers £500.

According to Becker, the debt was a big deal to the Romanians. As a result, he had one of his friends outside prison send money to stave off any negative repercussions.

"I had played professionally after tennis, so I thought, 'What could go wrong?'" Becker said to *SZ-Magazin*. "But I was playing with real criminals who came into my cell and threatened me if I didn't pay."

He detailed his experience in his new book *Inside*. He added that incarceration "eats away at your soul and boils your mind."

Becker said some prisoners would scream throughout the night, which only added to his uneasiness.

"By October, I was sleeping in my tracksuit and socks," he said. "Some nights it was so cold in my cell that I slept in two jackets and two pairs of



socks, wrapping a towel around my head. I lost seven kilos in the first four weeks."

Becker has won nearly \$120,000 in live poker tournaments, but those figures shrivel up compared to what he earned as an athlete. According to official records from the *ATP Tour*, Becker's career prize money was nearly \$25.1 million, not to mention his endorsement deals. ♠

NCAA INVESTIGATING 13 BASKETBALL PLAYERS FOR POSSIBLE POINT SHAVING

By Sean Chaffin

The NCAA announced a major sports betting investigation in mid-September involving 13 former men's basketball players at six schools. The allegations include numerous violations of sports betting rules, including betting on and against their own teams, sharing information with third parties for wagering, knowingly manipulating game outcomes, and refusing to participate in the enforcement staff's investigation.

The investigation includes athletes from Eastern Michigan, Temple, Arizona State, New Orleans, North Carolina A&T, and Mississippi Valley. NCAA officials also have additional cases currently in the investigation process, showcasing just how widespread the problem has become.

"The NCAA monitors over 22,000 contests every year and will continue to aggressively pursue competition integrity risks such as these," NCAA president Charlie Baker said. "I am grateful for the NCAA enforcement team's relentless work and for the schools' cooperation in these matters."

The issues came to light through the NCAA's integrity monitoring program and network of sources. It revolved around unusual betting activities around regular season games. Enforcement staff followed up and substantiated those reports via text messages, direct messages on social



media, and other communication methods.

The NCAA began the investigation shortly after it wrapped up three similar cases. The NCAA gave permanent bans to Fresno State's Mykell Robinson and Jalen Weaver, and San Jose State's Seven Vasquez. All three were allegedly involved in point shaving and betting on games during the

2024-25 season.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the virtual ban on sports betting outside Nevada in 2018, the NCAA faced several sports betting scandals.

In 2023, the then-University of Alabama head baseball coach Brad Bohanon lost his job after he gave inside information to a bettor who wagered against the Crimson Tide. Shortly after the Alabama scandal, there was another in Iowa. The NCAA charged more than a dozen athletes with illegal sports betting.

Baker believes online sports betting operators can curb these scandals by limiting certain bets.

Sports Illustrated speculated that a gambling ring currently under investigation as part of the Jontay Porter NBA scandal may also be linked to NCAA athletes. The case is heading to the indictment stage. ♠

BARSTOOL SPORTS' DAVE PORTNOY WINS \$20,000 FROM EMPLOYEE IN POKER MATCH

By Sean Chaffin



The Barstool Sports crew took to the felt with two poker streams at the beginning of September.

First, 18 Barstool personalities battled it out in a tournament format. Then, the following day, company founder Dave Portnoy squared off against Eric “Barstool Nate” Nathan in a \$20,000 heads-up freezeout.

Nathan is the platform’s resident poker player and hosts the *Cracking Aces* podcast. On the other hand, Portnoy is a complete novice.

But despite any skill advantage for “Barstool Nate,” Portnoy came out on top. He won the match and Nathan’s \$20,000.

“He plays a lot of poker,” said Portnoy after the match. “I’ve played twice in 15 years. I tried to tell him. I didn’t want this. I didn’t want this match.”

Nathan played incredibly defensively for most of the match, folding the best hand on multiple occasions. He folded pocket kings on the river to an incredibly small river bet from Portnoy, who was betting with a pair of nines that turned into second pair.

PokerGO’s Brent Hanks, who did commentary for the match alongside Jeff Platt, called it one of the “worst folds in the history of poker.”

High-stakes poker pro and former heads-up no-limit hold’em specialist Doug Polk also had harsh words for Nathan’s play.

“Dave rarely plays poker at all, so we are getting

a glimpse into exactly how good Dave Portnoy is at poker,” said Polk. “We are also going to get a look at how ‘Barstool Nate’ played. Cliffs Notes: not good.”

In the Barstool tournament from the previous day, the action featured an interesting three-way all in between Eric “PFT Commenter” Sollenberger, Ethan Kamps, and DraftKings co-founder Matt Kalish. Kalish’s company signed a partnership with Barstool Sports in February 2024 and the company’s logo was prominently displayed on the streams of both events.

As the final three players remaining, Sollenberger showed A♦ J♣, while Kamps showed A♣ 9♣, and Kalish turned over K♥ 9♥.

Sollenberger had a chance to win the tournament right there, but Kamps turned the nut flush, eliminated Kalish and took a massive chip lead into heads-up play. He won the tournament on the very next hand, securing the title and a \$30,000 payday.

The two events, held in conjunction with DraftKings, could signal more Barstool poker content in the future.

Additionally, the events were held at Foxwoods, which recently debuted its new poker room, and could be reemerging as a tournament poker destination. With Foxwoods’ proximity to Boston, where DraftKings is headquartered, and Portnoy’s New England roots, the tribal casino could be the location for future poker events. ♠

BRACELETS AND BURNOUT: BENNY GLASER TALKS TRIPLE

Mixed-Games Master Reflects On Historic Summer

By Tim Fiorvanti



Benny Glaser is one of the best tournament mixed game poker players in the world, by any measure. He's an eight-time *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner, the most of any player from Europe and tied for seventh-most all-time. Although his biggest career cash came in no-limit hold'em, all of Glaser's bracelets were won in mixed games. In total, he's racked up nearly \$10 million in tournament earnings.

This summer, the UK pro joined another elite fraternity in poker, becoming just the eighth player in more than 50 years of *WSOP* history to win three bracelets in a single summer.

But even with three new pieces of gold and the inside track for induction to the Poker Hall of Fame, the 2025 *WSOP* ended bitterly for the 36-year-old. Glaser missed out on one of his most coveted career goals, *WSOP* Player of the Year honors, by the narrowest of margins and a cruel

twist of fate.

"If I'm going to be honest, I would say winning POY would have been a much more satisfying way to celebrate this summer," said Glaser. "Especially in terms of just one specific thing which I've been working towards for a lot of my career. I think it would have been quite a big achievement for me."

Glaser gave his all, through the very last day of the summer. He played no-limit hold'em events, high rollers, and as many online events as he could squeeze in, and fought through exhaustion and sickness. But ultimately, Shaun Deeb pipped him by a handful of points. In talking to Glaser in the aftermath of the *WSOP*, it's clear the absolute slog he fought through took its toll.

Chasing History

It's extraordinarily difficult to have long-term staying

© PokerGO/Miguel Cortes



power in tournament poker. The challenge of keeping on top of an ever-evolving game requires a tremendous amount of time, energy, and focus. Even then, the greatest players in the world are still subject to the same factors of luck and circumstances beyond their control when it comes to competing for titles, accomplishments, and awards.

By most any measure, in almost any other year, or in any number of different scoring systems, Glaser could have been a no-doubt *WSOP* POY. In 2024, when Scott Seiver became the first player in 15 years to win three bracelets in a summer, the POY title was the feather in his cap.

Glaser's three 2025 bracelets came in three different mixed-game formats. Two of those wins, in the \$1,500 dealers choice and \$1,500 mixed Omaha event, happened within the first week of June, in the earliest stages of the series. Later that month, Glaser added the \$2,500 mixed triple draw title.

But could he get to four? There was still nearly half a series left, and at the very least, he could put the finishing touches on a stellar POY résumé.

"Those runs for sure, were a big deal in terms of how I was feeling," said Glaser. "A couple of them went on to an extra day four, and in between the second and third win, I had another 16th-place finish as well. That was another three days of tournament poker."

It wasn't simply a matter of how much poker Glaser was playing. He'd had plenty of busy summers since winning his first bracelet back in 2015. Each of those runs to victory had taken a particular, cumulative toll as the pressure mounted.

"For a lot of reasons, deep runs are exhausting," said Glaser. "One is that adrenaline is naturally higher at the later stages of the tournament, and it's tougher to just keep your system as together and relaxed as you would like it

to be. Pressures are definitely higher at later stages of the tournament, from any kind of external sources, like media, as well as really pushing focus as hard as you can when it matters most."

"And then you're really trying to push yourself to play your best, in whatever capacity that is. Maybe you're taking some extra caffeine and things like that, which is then going to potentially make the aftermath a bit more difficult in terms of recovery."

Running On Empty

At a certain point, there's simply nothing left in the tank to draw from. The first few days after the third win were a bit of a blur, and Glaser granted himself some grace after a job well done.

"There were one or two days after that where I was planning to play, but just ended up deciding to take the day off, just feeling too depleted," said Glaser. "I knew I was not going to be playing or feeling my best. Sometimes during the summer, I allow for those kinds of days to naturally happen."

But the pull of the POY race grew stronger. There were a bevy of other contenders pushing towards the top. First, it was Scott Bohlman. Then Martin Kabrhel broke through with a win, starting his own charge. And of course, Michael Mizrahi still needed to put his stamp on an incredible summer.

But in the end, there was Deeb. The 2018 POY winner, two-time POY runner-up, and perpetual contender specifically builds his personal schedule around maximizing his chances for the award, often playing multiple events at the same time. Tweaks to the scoring system, including a 10-result cap, were built specifically with Deeb and his volume in mind.



After a summer of close calls, Deeb got exactly what he was looking for in the \$100,000 pot-limit Omaha high roller. With that victory, Deeb earned the seventh bracelet of his career and moved past Glaser for the overall lead with just 20 live events to go. Tired or not, Glaser was ready for a final push.

"When I had the space and time for those one or two days off I took it once or twice in the first three or four weeks of the summer," said Glaser. "I felt like I needed them later in the summer, too, but at that point I just didn't allow myself to take them, unfortunately, because of the POY chase. And it was really tough. I was not enjoying the last couple of weeks for a lot of reasons. I was just having to play tournaments that I didn't really want to be playing, like these \$800 no-limit tournaments when I'd rather be playing mixed games. It was just not very good for the morale and the mindset, especially when things were not going very well."

The primary reason for playing the big-field no-limit hold'em events was the way points were awarded. Deeb was especially plugged in when it came to maximizing on every point-scoring opportunity.

"We were communicating semi-frequently, probably every other day," said Glaser. "There was a bit of a rivalry, but it was mostly good natured. In another way, there was some camaraderie. We're friendly anyway, and he was even recommending which tournaments I should play for POY, what was just better in terms of the point system. That was something I hadn't looked into before this year. It's quite a unique point system for *WSOP* POY."

Disaster At The Finish Line

There was something of a bond forged as each player fol-

lowed a nearly identical schedule trying to scratch out the points to make the final difference. Then, as Glaser made a couple of runs in the last few no-limit events, a misunderstanding of the rules may well have made the difference between first and second.

"There was actually one really sick situation where Shaun informed me incorrectly for something," said Glaser, "And genuinely, that difference might have cost me the POY race. I was on my second cash of a tournament, and he thought that they would be combined to make an extra point jump. While that had been the rule previously, that wasn't the case for POY this year. It was just your best score of the two."

At a moment when he could've sat and whittled down his stack, along the lines of trying to survive a money bubble or pay jump, Glaser's misinformation altered his potential outcome.

"I played it differently, in a way," said Glaser. "I was trying to gamble harder, because I didn't think that I needed to make this one point jump for an extra 50 points, basically. I ended up losing POY by 40 points. That was a tough situation, and he was regretful for misinforming me."

Deeb won by less than 1 percent of their points totals; 4,194.1 points for Deeb, 4,153.66 for Glaser.

Even more disheartening, in the aftermath of the chaotic race, Glaser's case for being robbed as 2025 POY wasn't even the loudest complaint from critics in the poker community. Although many had grievances with Deeb's second POY win, the majority of them centered around Mizrahi, following his wins in the two highest profile events on the schedule. Mizrahi's fourth career *Poker Players Championship* and his victory in the main event

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Glaser's Top Tournament Scores

Dec. 2022	\$10,000 WPT World Championship	2nd	\$2,830,000
June 2022	\$50,000 WSOP Poker Players Championship	4th	\$464,420
June 2016	\$10,000 WSOP Omaha Eight-Or-Better	1st	\$407,194
Sept. 2021	\$25,000 WSOP H.O.R.S.E	2nd	\$341,274
June 2023	\$10,000 WSOP Limit 2-7 Triple Draw	1st	\$311,428
Dec. 2024	\$50,000 WSOP Paradise Pot-Limit Omaha	6th	\$304,870
Nov. 2021	\$10,000 WSOP Razz	1st	\$274,693
June 2018	\$50,000 WSOP Poker Players Championship	5th	\$260,578
June 2025	\$1,500 WSOP Mixed Omaha Eight-Or-Better	1st	\$258,193
June 2016	\$1,500 WSOP Omaha Eight-Or-Better	1st	\$244,103
March 2025	\$100,000 Super High Roller Bowl Mixed	5th	\$225,000
June 2025	\$2,500 WSOP Mixed Triple Draw Lowball	1st	\$208,552
June 2017	\$10,000 WSOP Stud Eight-Or-Better	2nd	\$197,838
May 2025	\$1,500 WSOP Dealers Choice	1st	\$150,246
June 2015	\$1,500 WSOP Limit 2-7 Triple Draw	1st	\$136,215



Three Bracelets In One Year

Name	Year	First Win	Second Win	Third Win
Puggy Pearson	1973	\$4,000 Stud	\$1,000 NL Hold'em	\$10,000 Main Event
Phil Hellmuth	1993	\$2,500 NL Hold'em	\$1,500 NL Hold'em	\$5,000 Limit Hold'em
Ted Forrest	1993	\$5,000 Stud	\$1,500 Razz	\$1,500 Omaha 8
Phil Ivey	2002	\$1,500 Stud	\$2,500 Stud 8	\$2,000 S.H.O.E.
Jeff Lisandro	2009	\$1,500 Stud	\$10,000 Stud 8	\$2,500 Razz
George Danzer	2014	\$10,000 Razz	\$10,000 Stud 8	\$5,000 8-Game
Scott Seiver	2024	\$10,000 Omaha 8	\$1,500 Razz	\$10,000 NL 2-7 Lowball
Benny Glaser	2025	\$1,500 Dealers Choice	\$1,500 Mixed Omaha	\$2,500 Mixed Triple Draw

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landed him a distant third in the race.

Ultimately, Glaser finished the 2025 *WSOP* with 11 live cashes, six online cashes, three bracelets, and four final tables. As much as he appreciated how his summer played out, he was honest about where a triple victory lies in his hierarchy of best possible outcomes.

“Do the specific events in which you win the bracelets matter?” said Glaser. “For example, one *PPC* title, even if it was just that one bracelet, would be more satisfying and meaningful to me than winning three different ones, as wild as that might sound.”

On top of the disappointment, Glaser felt as run down as he’d ever been at the end of a summer in Las Vegas.

“It was just more extreme. The last three weeks of the series I was forcing myself to play every day and took no days off. So understandably, the aftermath was tougher. It was quite a tough adrenal dump. I was just feeling pretty dead for the last couple of weeks, and afterwards, both physically and mentally. Not really wanting to do much of anything after the series. I basically stayed in Vegas for two weeks after, and did not do very much. I saw some friends, and then went off for a holiday after that, for another week and a half. I ended up mostly just resting there, too.”

There is no discounting how Glaser’s sacrifice was well-earned, regardless of the POY results. With eight career bracelets, every player ahead of Glaser on the all-time list - Hellmuth, Ivey, Brunson, Chan, Seidel, and Moss - is a Poker Hall of Famer. At just 36, if Glaser wants it, he’s a favorite to become the sixth player to reach a double-digit bracelet count.

A Kinder Future

Even before the 2025 *WSOP* grind, Glaser was contem-

plating what his coming years in poker might look like.

“The *WSOP* is still generally my most important time of year,” said Glaser. “I do definitely still keep planning to play it for the foreseeable future, whilst I feel that I’m still somewhat enjoying it, and whilst I’m, of course, still profitable in it. But the capacity in which I will play might start changing. To be honest, that might be the last series where I go as hard as I did. I might start backing off and start playing more casually, give myself some breaks. I need to be a bit kinder to myself.”

Glaser has aspirations of traveling more without a poker event in mind, an experience as far away from the intensity of a final table.

“Everything else goes on the back burner,” said Glaser. “Anything else that you are trying to do in those couple of days, whether it’s related to friends or other tasks, it falls by the wayside. Life gets put on hold for another time when your whole focus is on poker for those two or three days. It’s not in your best interest really, to be focusing on anything else.”

After some time for decompression post-*WSOP*, Glaser returned to action at *EPT Barcelona*. He returned from Spain with a spade trophy in his luggage, for winning a €5,200 T.O.R.S.E. during the festival.

The aftertaste of the ending to his summer might take a while to fully fade away. But for all of the tough breaks that happened afterwards, Glaser’s rightly claimed himself a swath of poker history.

“I’m very aware of how big those fields were, and how statistically unlikely it is to happen, winning three times,” said Glaser. “And how amazing of an achievement that is in one summer.” ♠

VIVA LAS VEGAS! ADAM HENDRIX CHANNELS 'THE KING' IN WSOP MAIN EVENT FINAL TABLE RUN

Table 1 Podcast: Alaska Native No Longer Playing For Cheesesteaks

By Art Parmann and Justin Young



The *World Series of Poker* main event came with quite an interesting start for Adam Hendrix – donning an Elvis Presley costume on his first day of action. A little mojo from the king of rock ‘n’ roll culminated with a sixth-place finish for \$1.9 million.

That single cash alone almost tripled his biggest previous best score, which came in 2024 with a win in a \$3,000 side event at the *WPT World Championship* for \$629,000. The Alaska native now has \$10 million in live tournament earnings in a career dating back to 2016.

It’s been a massive few years for Hendrix, who won a *Poker Masters* event in 2021 for \$186,300 and took runner-up in a *U.S. Poker Open* event in the same year for another \$144,500.

That was followed by additional wins in both series the following year for a total of \$393,600.

In 2023, he grabbed a *PokerGO Tour PLO* title for \$172,710, took the top spot in a \$5,000 event at the *Seminole Rock N’ Roll Poker Open* for \$192,150, and fifth in the \$50,000 PLO at the WSOP for \$570,671. More recently, the 33-year-old added a *PokerGO Cup* win in February for \$316,050.

Hendrix was recently a guest on the Table 1 podcast, talking about his time growing up in Alaska and abroad, building igloos, learning poker from his grandmother, the prop bet that brought on the Elvis appearance, and much more. Highlights appear below. You can also watch or listen to the

entire episode on YouTube, Spotify, Apple, or any podcast app.

Adam Hendrix: I was born in Anchorage, Alaska. My dad’s from Homer, Alaska, which is a town four



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hours south, a smaller fishing town. He moved there at the start of high school. We left Alaska when I was eight, but we always kept it as our home because my dad's in the oil business.

We traveled internationally a bunch. I lived in a bunch of places like Scotland, Egypt, and Texas. Summers, we'd come back and fish. I remember as a kid, the plow man would push all the snow into the center of the cul de sac. All the kids from the street would make igloos. We would hide in the igloos and play all day. That was pretty awesome as a 5-year-old.

Justin Young: You guys run any sit-n-go's in there?

Adam Hendrix: No poker being played. I did play some poker at my grandma's. She was always part of a card club. I think they called it the Pink Hats. It's an older ladies group. They'd get together every week, do something like lunch or cards. So we just played a little poker. We played this game called seven card no peaky, which was a pretty tough game.

Art Parmann: We would also play that, at the end of the night at the home games that I would go to.

Adam Hendrix: I think we were playing for a penny or something. I didn't have a bankroll, so my grandma would throw some money at me.

Justin Young: Your first backer?

Adam Hendrix: Yeah, I kept everything. I just stiffed her.

Justin Young: You guys didn't settle up after every round?

Adam Hendrix: That was the first time I ever played cards. And then from there, I remember summers in Alaska when we were fishing. My dad usually woke me up pretty early to go fishing sometimes at 6 a.m. At 12 years old you're like, 'I want to not wake up at 5 a.m. Let me stay home and watch TV.' So, I watched the *WSOP* main event on *ESPN*.

Justin Young: What was the first time you watched the main event?

Adam Hendrix: I want to say it was probably after we moved from Alaska. We'd come back in summers from Scotland, when I was probably like 9 or 10. I remember 2009 was a big year. Before that, I think it was just after Moneymaker.

Justin Young: So maybe you're more of a Jamie Gold product?

Adam Hendrix: Jerry Yang. The poker gods looked out for him. He played the most during the final table, so he won.

Hendrix later discussed living abroad.

Adam Hendrix: Aberdeen, Scotland, which is northern Scotland, is very dark. It's called the Granite City, because everything is covered in granite. Our house had gargoyles on it and stuff. It was sort of a medieval, cool town near the coast.

We were there for three or four years and I picked up soccer, and it became one of the main sports I played. There was one soccer game I remember because the Scottish weather is pretty brutal. It can be snow, hail, and sunny in 30 minutes. One game started off like 70 degrees in the sun, then it hailed, then it snowed, then it got sunny, and then it rained again, and then a thunderstorm stopped the game.

We moved to The Woodlands, Texas, which is outside Houston, another oil place. I spent middle school there and it was great. I was better at soccer, but American football in Texas is crazy – the high school and middle school scene. We had 1,200 people in our middle school and 200 people on the football team. We had four teams of 50, and it was A, B, C, and D teams. You had rankings of the teams, which is insane. Morning practice at 6 a.m. before school, it was pretty much a nightmare. I played as receiver and field goal kicker.

But I quit football after getting a pretty bad injury. I went up for a pass, and some guy led with his helmet. It's called spearing, which is illegal, and bruised my spleen. I was out for months, but I remember vividly we went to the hospital as Hurricane Rita was coming through, and my dad took me in a really small convertible, cramped up. We drove an hour to the hospital.

With the hurricanes coming through, they were like, 'We're going to lose power in this hospital. You can go home with your parents or you can stay here.' I remember they put me back in the car. They gave me painkillers and I spent a week on a breathing apparatus. I didn't have to have surgery, but I was the waterboy the rest of the season.

Hendrix began playing poker in high school and continued into college, sometimes battling for stakes as low as cheesesteaks.

Adam Hendrix: I went to Virginia Tech for engineering. My dad's an engineer, so it's something that sort of naturally fit in. I had a good math and science base, and did that for a few

years, and then realized I didn't know what job I'd like to do in engineering, so I switched to economics and a minor in statistics. I carried that out with a side of poker.

Art Parmann: Look at the brain of this guy.

Justin Young: What does a side of poker mean?

Adam Hendrix: My freshman dorm was pretty interesting... and we got to know each other pretty well. Somebody one day was like, 'Let's play some poker.' Obviously, I shipped the first one for 10 bucks.

From there, we played some freerolls. There's a place called Hokie House at Virginia Tech, which was just a bar and you'd go up there and play a freeroll for \$15 or \$20 of food and drink credit. I was under 21 so I'd just get cheese steaks, while everybody else was getting mixed drinks. But I would crush those. By the end of graduation, I opened a dresser drawer and had like 200 bucks (in credit), and was like, 'Oh, man, these are probably expired.'

We created the first poker club at Virginia Tech from that little game in our dorm. I started playing a little online. I remember post-COVID, it was really hard to play online. You could use crypto to deposit. I'd have to go to the local Safeway to do a Western Union deposit to somebody in Nicaragua, and you hoped it hit your account. I just remember doing that and buying credit cards from the 7-Eleven, because they would deny a normal Visa.

I always thought online was a good way to get better at poker, since I was pretty isolated with who I was playing with live. The competition wasn't tough. One day we went to a neighboring town with my buddy for this freeroll at a place called Skeeter's or something ridiculous. Five minutes in and me and my buddy bust. We're like, 'What the heck do we do now?' My friend's got a big stack. He's like, 'You guys can leave.' This guy comes up to me and asks, 'You want to come play cash at my house? We have a home game.'

We didn't ask the blinds or anything. We had only played for \$5 or \$10 at this point. There were cellar doors that open up from the ground. I thought, 'Well, this feels sketchy.' I was 19 and had \$62 on me. Who cares? Just don't kill me. We just walk in and it's smoke-filled with 40-year-old guys

“We were trying to figure out a prop bet and decided on a last longer for Elvis. On 9-7-3, I have a set of threes. A guy has A-9 offsuit. It comes A-9 on the turn and river and I’m out. Then I have to go get this outfit a few days later.”



with cowboy hats. They're like, 'How much do you want to buy in for?' I'm like, 'What are the blinds?' – '\$.50-\$1.' Oh god. That's big money.

I bought in for \$60. My first hand, I had A-10. The flop came A-A-10. I was like, 'Well, this is nice.' I was up 60 bucks right away. I think my friend lost, but I won \$120 and I was on cloud nine.

I still graduated and worked two years as a software engineer for a government contractor out in Northern Virginia. I wanted to build a bankroll in poker because it's such a weird job where you have to bring money every day to play. I was always worried about going broke and I saw plenty of horror stories from Twitter. The DOJ shutting down online poker, stuff like that.

So, I need to have x amount of money. I would stream online poker with a small following back in the day, and then just grinded up a bankroll to quit [the day job]. I think by the time I quit, I had \$75,000 to \$85,000. That's a big chunk, a reasonable nest egg that I could afford rent and then variance and sell a little bit.

The conversation transitioned to Hendrix playing in the WSOP main

event in 2025 while wearing an Elvis costume as part of a prop bet. The setup may have been good luck as he went on to make the final table.

Adam Hendrix: The WSOP tag team had like 110 teams left. We were at a table with Alan Keating, Cody Daniels. And then Nick Marchington comes for the first few hands. We were trying to figure out a prop bet and decided on a last longer for Elvis.

So, we're grinding through with like 58 left. I get it in with bottom set on the flop for 40 big blinds each. On 9-7-3, I have threes. A guy has A-9 off-suit. It comes A-9 on the turn and river and I'm out. Then I have to go get this Elvis outfit a few days later.

Justin Young: The photos are great.

Adam Hendrix: My mom's from East Tennessee and there are huge Elvis fans in that part of the world. They grew up with Elvis. When he died, they all cried. It was like a funeral for weeks. So, I loved Elvis growing up, always danced to his music and stuff like that. I didn't mind dressing up as him.

I called a local costume store. There's one near the Las Vegas Convention Center in some strip mall that I'd never seen before. It's the ran-

domest assortment of bars, Mexican restaurants, and a costume store. I call them, 'You have Elvis outfits?' They have hundreds. It was one of those doors you have to hit the doorbell and then somebody will let you in. I'm like, 'Why is this like Fort Knox?' I read the sign. It says, 'Must wear a mask upon entry.' I'm like, 'This is 2021 all of a sudden?'

I go in. The guy hands me a mask. 'Are you the Elvis guy?' I'm the Elvis guy. 'What are you using it for?' I said, 'A poker tournament.' And he says not white, it'll get dirty. 'Here's the black one.' I put it on and it fit well.

There are shoulder pads in this thing. He gives me a white T-shirt, boots, and a wig that just fit perfectly. I don't know what's going on, but it looked pretty nice. It was \$160. Then I look at the insurance policy. He makes me sign it and it's \$960. Why is it \$960? He's like, 'Well, if there's any issues with the outfit, if you tear it or stain it, it's \$960.' This outfit is not worth more than \$200, but whatever.

Then I headed to the main and I rolled up in the outfit. I thought I'd get more looks. But then again, it's Vegas. Everybody's like, 'Another Elvis?' ♠



Table 1 is for people who *love* poker but can't stand rigid, boring, dusty games. We've put together the kind of community where the vibe is just as important as the cards.

Think about it—what if poker was less about squeezing every penny out of the pot and more about the laughs, the stories, and those unforgettable moments? That's what we're here for.

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TRADING BAD BEATS FOR DANCE BEATS: JC ALVARADO STARTS HIS COMEBACK

Former High Roller Turned DJ Works To Find The Fun In Poker

By Paul Oresteen



JC Alvarado reached the top of the poker world, competing for the highest stakes while racking up \$4.5 million in tournament cashes. Highlights included a runner-up and fourth-place showing in the *EPT Barcelona* €50,000 Super High Roller, worth a combined \$1.475 million. He also took second at the *EPT Prague* €25,000 high roller, narrowly missed out on a *World Poker Tour* title at the *World Poker Challenge* in Reno, and finished third in the *WSOP Europe* main event.

He battled the game's best, won, and then walked away from the game.

Alvarado's disillusionment with the game was a slow burn, finding less and less motivation to hunt down, and exploit, the thinnest of edges. A sudden job opportunity helped rip the band-aid off, and on a random Monday in Mexico City, he joined the world of finance.

As it turns out, as much as Alvarado didn't fit in with the 'poker bros,' he also did not fit in with the 'finance bros.' His corporate job ran its course, but along the way he discovered a new passion and rediscovered an old one. These days, you can find Alvarado back at the online poker tables, mixing it up on WPTGlobal. The only difference is that he does it while mixing dance tracks and streaming for all the world to see.

Card Player caught up with DJ Alvarado to talk about how he's dipped his toes back into the poker world, his way.

Paul Oresteen: You had success playing against legends from a few eras of poker. Was there one player you recall being particularly tough?

JC Alvarado: When I was playing *Triton* events, in that

space, Stephen Chidwick was the toughest guy. He was super intense – I was intense too, but I wasn't as good as him. Some people were better than me, but they didn't match my intensity, and that gave me a little edge. But with Stephen, he matched that intensity and was also better than me, so it was scary playing against him.

But when I made my first *World Poker Tour* final table in 2007, I was playing against guys that were maybe less studied than me, but instinctually scarier at the time. I had David "The Dragon" Pham and JC Tran at my first final table. Those guys were scary.

It was in Reno, which was close to their backyard. Before I turned 21, when I was a budding professional, I went to the *LA Poker Classic* and just stood on the rail to watch. There was this guy with racks and racks of chips in the main and I had to ask who it was. It was JC. He final tabled that event, then another, and then was also at mine in Reno. When I got heads-up with him, my mom was at the rail and I told her, 'I can't beat this guy.' I was already mentally defeated by then.

Paul Oresteen: Speaking of Chidwick, he recently made a pretty revealing post on social media about the dark side of perfectionism. He is one of the winningest players of all time, but even he struggles with impostor syndrome.

JC Alvarado: I really liked what he had to say. I think the dark secret in poker is that a lot of top players struggle to find balance. In my case, I felt like when you're in the trenches all the time you lose sight of what's important and poker becomes your life.

My leaving poker was a slow process. I think a lot of players from my generation have the same kind of stories about



coming up. We gave up on school and dedicated our lives to figuring out poker. Then things started to go sideways, which can happen fast when you're playing super high rollers.

The great opportunities for poker players were drying up, and then I struggled with the notion that I could even do something else. My entire identity centered around being a professional poker player, and there was a mourning process in letting that go. It was my entire adult life. I did one thing and felt useless at anything else. Like, what could I ever do that wasn't poker?

Eventually, I got offered a job in finance that I didn't expect. So, in that sense, it was overnight because I didn't know what else to do. I took the job and didn't play a single hand of poker for four years.

Paul Oresteen: When did DJing come into your life? Were you always musically inclined?

JC Alvarado: No. In fact, I hated electronic music for a long time and never had that big of a musical inkling or creativity. I went to film school before quitting poker, so I was a little on the creative side, but not musically.

It was post-pandemic and I had a job in finance that I really didn't like. It was the antithesis of who I was as a person. I'm not a 'finance bro.' I had just moved back to Mexico City from Ireland and was starting to go out. I had started to like EDM by this point and had gone to Burning Man one year. We didn't have DJ in our camp, I just used my playlists that people liked. I got this validation from strangers and promised myself that I would work on it as a hobby, and I could play the year after that.

I started practicing, got hired for little gigs, parties here

and there, and yeah, I got more and more into it. I wouldn't say it's my future career in any way, but as a hobby, it scratches an itch.

Paul Oresteen: Streaming yourself playing poker and DJing at the same time seems like two right-brained activities that don't line up well. Is it part of your personality that you can juggle those two?

JC Alvarado: Well, I got fired, partially for learning how to DJ while on the job. Then I tried to play online poker again and I'd get bored. I can't multi-table like I used to, the game's passed me by, so I need to focus on one or two tables at a time. I wasn't doing it for a living, so just to pass the time, I'd open my DJ software and practice, create sets and mess around at both.

When I got this idea, I was completely out of poker. I couldn't tell you who won the *WSOP* main event from 2021-2024. (This despite the fact that Alvarado went deep in the 2024 main event, finishing 387th for \$40,000.) But then I started to see poker content again and would watch people stream. It was boring. They were clearly successful, but at what point does the audience get tired of clicking on reels that are someone's aces getting cracked or set over set?

There's a finite time in the attention economy and I saw everyone doing the same kind of thing. I had the idea to mix music and poker, so if poker gets boring, they have music in the background.

Plus, it's funny to see me fuck up on the decks. I constantly mess up. If you get aces during a transition in a song, it's not going to go well. But that's the humor and appeal to my stream. It's been fun and at this point in my life, I'd



rather do things I find fun.

Paul Oresteen: You did play a few live events in 2024. That's a different level of commitment than playing online.

JC Alvarado: Well, by the summer of last year, I had been unemployed for exactly a year. I didn't want to go back to finance and was completely unaware of the second poker boom. I never thought I'd play again, but a friend reached out to me and said he would put me in some *WSOP* events if I wanted to come play it. I told him I wasn't sure if I even remembered how to play, as I hadn't done any studying and hadn't watched the game. I didn't know what was going on.

He said, 'Whatever, I gamble on baccarat. It doesn't matter.' That was the only reason I went. Because I wouldn't have taken the risk to play a bunch of events on my own after five years of not playing. One of the big skills in poker is losing your attachment and value to money that you're playing with. Now, if I played a \$2,500 event and lost, I would regret not having spent that money on something like house renovations. It's a different mentality at this point compared to when I was firing in \$50,000 tournaments. We're all getting older now, things are different and acceptance of risk of your own money changes the older you get.

But I also went back and played really well. I cashed in a

couple of events and had a top 15 stack in the main event at one point. I thought I was going to be the main character in a movie when I had chips in the main. I was like, 'Okay, I'm going to win this.' And then, you know, I got reminded of how brutal poker is... like real quick.

But it got me motivated to get back in the game, at least a part-time basis. I don't feel that strong online, but my years of experience still hold up in the live realm. Then, the explosion of content creation was appealing to me. It got my creative side going and it's a lot more fun.

Paul Oresteen: What's next for you if *Triton* events aren't on your schedule?

JC Alvarado: I'm working on a project that's more lifestyle-oriented, and doing a podcast. We filmed the first episode already and I want poker to be a part of it. I don't ever want to go back to being a full-time poker player and go through the amount of stress and live in the Chidwick headspace. It's grueling, hard, and stressful.

Right now, the stream and all my content is in Spanish, but the plan is to go bilingual or have an English-only stream. Anyone who speaks English can join anytime and I'll answer.

Check out Alvarado's Twitch stream [ATM_pokr](#), and follow him on Instagram [@ATM_Poker](#). ♠

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JEREMY BECKER SHINES IN INAUGURAL PGT BOUNTY BLITZ SERIES

By Erik Fast



In recent years, the *PokerGO Tour* has debuted several new series centered on certain game types or formats. With the popularity of festivals like the *PGT PLO Series* and *PGT Mixed Games*, it's no surprise that the tour would try out a series dedicated to bounty tournaments.

The inaugural *PGT Bounty Blitz* was composed of six events, each at the \$5,000 price point. A total of \$1,390,000 in prize money was awarded across the half-dozen tournaments that ran from Sept. 1-6 inside the PokerGO Studio at ARIA Resort & Casino Las Vegas.

While no official player of the series was crowned, the title would have certainly gone to tournament grinder **Jeremy Becker**. The Florida native staked his claim as the king of the Las Vegas daily tournaments when he won eight at the Wynn in a single month back in 2023. At this series, he displayed that penchant for streaks once again, making the final table in all but one of the tournaments, including winning the kickoff event.

Becker's spree began with him outlasting a field of 46 entries in the no-limit hold'em bounty event, claiming a first-place prize of \$55,600. That included \$10,000 in bounties, courtesy of five eliminations recorded on his way to victory. This was Becker's second career *PGT* trophy, joining his triumph in a 2024 *Poker Masters* event.

By the end of the series, Becker would add a runner-up showing in the progressive knockout event and third in the mystery bounty finale. All told, he cashed for \$138,400 during the festival, including bounties.

Sergio Aido And Landon Tice Find The Winner's Circle

Becker was close to an even bigger series, but he lost a massive pot early on at the final table of event 2. Spanish *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner **Sergio Aido** cracked Becker's pocket aces with pocket kings during six-handed

play to score an early elimination. Becker settled for \$15,400 in total prize money as the sixth-place finisher, while Aido went on to lock up the title and \$69,000.

Aido bested 48 entries in the escalator bounty event, earning \$47,500 from the main prize pool and another \$21,500 in bounties. This grew Aido's recorded title count to a dozen, while his career tournament earnings surpassed \$23.9 million.

Bracelet winner Chris Hunichen was the eventual runner-up. He banked \$57,600 in total cashes across two final-table showings at this series.

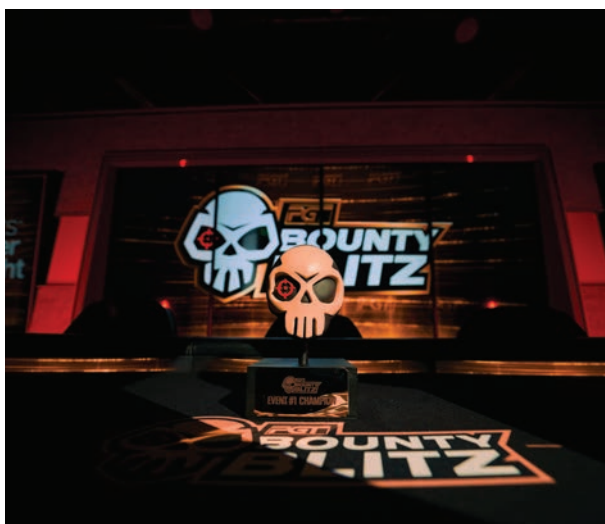
Landon Tice, who had a very public prop bet against Becker in 2024, emerged victorious in the only event that Becker failed to final table. He defeated a field of 51 entries in event no. 3, the quattro bounty tournament. After a final table with wild swings, Tice was the last person standing with a total payout of \$79,500, including four \$8,000 bounties.

John Andress final tabled the first three events of the series, finishing with a sixth-place finish in the third event.

Chino Rheem And Jason Hickey Earn Their Trophies

Chino Rheem scored four of the final five knockouts on his way to winning the progressive knockout (PKO) title. The skull-shaped trophy will join his extensive collection, including those from his three *World Poker Tour* main event victories and the 2019 *European Poker Tour PokerStars Caribbean Adventure* main event title. Rheem is also a two-time *PGT Mixed Games* series champion.

Rheem defeated a field of 36 entries to earn \$65,100. While \$28,100 came from the main prize pool, the remaining \$37,000 was due to the accumulated bounties. He now boasts lifetime tournament earnings of nearly \$16.9 million. This win also came with 54 *PGT* points for Rheem, bring-



ing his total to 1,401 on the year. As a result, he now sits in seventh place in the tour's season-long standings.

Becker finished runner-up to Rheem, earning \$35,100 in the process. Hunichen's second final-table of the festival saw him place fifth for \$13,800.

Jason Hickey won the penultimate event on the schedule. He outlasted 59 entries in the mystery bounty event to earn \$50,000 in prize money and \$47,000 in bounty payouts. The \$97,000 overall windfall amounted to the largest score yet for the Texas resident. This was also the first *PGT* title for Hickey. (pg. 48)

Two-time bracelet winner Steve Zolotow locked up \$33,500 by surviving to the heads-up match with Hickey, but was trailing by a hefty margin of more than 12:1. Hickey was able to convert that healthy lead into the title in short order.

Andrew Ostapchenko finished sixth in this event for \$10,500. This was the 11th final table of 2025 for Ostapchenko, with three wins along the way, including taking down a \$5,000 no-limit hold'em event at this year's *WSOP* for his first bracelet. He had also finished second in a \$25,000 buy-in earlier at the series for a career-best payday of \$1.3 million. With 6,556 total points, he now sits fifth in the POY standings.

Sam Laskowitz Takes Down The Finale

Lawyer-turned-poker pro **Sam Laskowitz** outlasted a field of 38 entries in the \$5,000 mystery bounty event to earn \$36,500 from the main prize pool and \$13,600 in bounties.

All told, Laskowitz cashed for \$71,500 across this series when you include his third-place finish in event no. 3, giving him lifetime earnings of nearly \$3.8 million. This was Laskowitz's second overall *PGT* title, having also taken down a \$10,000 event during the tour's *Last Chance* series in January of 2024.

Becker capped his impressive run with another podium finish for \$18,200. He was eliminated by bracelet winner Andrew Lichtenberger, who went on to strike a heads-up deal with Laskowitz to redistribute the remaining prize money a bit. Lichtenberger held the lead at the time, but the two swapped positions when Laskowitz won a big pot with jacks and tens besting his opponents' lower two pair.

Lichtenberger was awarded \$25,100 from the main prize pool and \$39,400 in bounties. His career tournament haul now sits at \$24.2 million. ♠



PGT Bounty Blitz - ARIA PokerGO Studio - Las Vegas, NV



Event	Player	Payout
\$5,300 NLH KO Sept. 1-2 Entries: 46 Prizepool: \$230,000	1 Jeremy Becker	\$55,600
	2 Qin Zhao	\$33,000
	3 John Address	\$25,300
	4 Andrew Lichtenberger	\$30,500
	5 Darren Rabinowitz	\$17,700
	6 Josh Arieih	\$13,600
	7 David Baker	\$8,300

Event	Player	Payout
\$5,300 NLH Escalator KO Sept. 2-3 Entries: 48 Prizepool: \$240,000	1 Serigo Aido	\$69,000
	2 Christopher Hunichen	\$43,800
	3 Michael Berk	\$42,300
	4 Sean Winter	\$18,100
	5 Chino Rheem	\$20,100
	6 Jeremy Becker	\$15,400
	7 John Address	\$14,500

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
\$5,300 NLH Quattro KO Sept. 3-4 Entries: 51 Prizepool: \$255,003	1 Landon Tice	\$79,500 (240)
	2 Dan Shak	\$48,200 (200)
	3 Sam Laskowitz	\$21,400 (160)
	4 Andrew Ostapchenko	\$31,300 (120)
	5 Cherish Andrews	\$26,200 (100)
	6 John Address	\$25,200 (80)
	7 David Coleman	\$15,600 (60)
	8 Nicholas Seward	\$7,600 (40)

Event	Player	Payout
\$5,300 NLH Progressive KO Sept. 4-5 Entries: 36 Prizepool: \$180,000	1 Chino Rheem	\$65,100
	2 Jeremy Becker	\$35,100
	3 Andrew Kelsall	\$23,400
	4 Mike Zulker	\$19,000
	5 Christopher Hunichen	\$13,800
	6 Alex Condon	\$8,600

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
\$5,300 NLH Mystery KO Sept. 5-6 Entries: 59 Prizepool: \$295,000	1 Jason Hickey	\$97,000 (240)
	2 Steve Zolotow	\$33,500 (200)
	3 Anthony Marquez	\$90,700 (160)
	4 Bryan Swanson	\$24,400 (120)
	5 Jeremy Becker	\$14,100 (100)
	6 Andrew Ostapchenko	\$10,500 (80)
	7 Craig Mason	\$8,850 (60)
	8 Andrew Kelsall	\$8,850 (40)

Event	Player	Payout
\$5,300 NLH Mystery Bounty Sept. 6 Entries: 41 Prizepool: \$190,000	1 Sam Laskowitz	\$50,100
	2 Andrew Lichtenberger	\$64,500
	3 Jeremy Becker	\$18,200
	4 Mike Zulker	\$19,700
	5 Jim Collopy	\$13,400
	6 Bryan Swanson	\$24,100



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FIRST-EVER TRITON ONE FESTIVAL AWARDS NEARLY \$20 MILLION IN PRIZE MONEY

By Card Player News Team

Joshua Gebissa



The inaugural *Triton One* series is officially in the books. The high roller brand, which usually hosts events with buy-ins of \$25,000 or more, launched the series with the intention of appealing to players at a lower price.

Despite the discount, more than \$19.6 million in total prize money was awarded across the 10-event festival that ran from Sept. 2-8 at Landing Casino Jeju. A total of 3,541 entries were made along the way, including the 1,046 that posted \$8,000 in the main event.

The strong turnout in the main event resulted in a prize pool of more than \$7.6 million. After two starting flights and two more days of combined-field action, **Joshua Gebissa** emerged victorious with the title and \$975,225 in prize money.

Prior to his victory, the 30-year-old German's best live tournament result amounted to \$45,262, courtesy of pulling a big mystery bounty in Prague. Now, he will go down in the history books as the first main event champion on the fledgling tour. Gebissa's win was all the sweeter because, according to a social media post by *Triton* CEO Andy Wong, he won his way into the event via satellite.

At the conclusion of the event, Gebissa had to mount a comeback to defeat Punnat Punsri heads-up, and by the nature of their deal, Punsri actually walked away with the largest payout of \$1,205,775.

"I was kind of happy to play with him," Gebissa told *Triton* reporters. "Kind of a legend of the game, to play him heads up for a big trophy, can't get much better than this, I think."

For Punsri, it was his third major windfall in Jeju. Back in March, Punsri won the \$125,000 buy-in *Triton* event for \$2,594,555. The year before, he took down the

\$50,000 *Triton* event for another \$2,010,000.

For now, Punsri sits third in the *Card Player* Player of the Year standings presented by CoinPoker after adding 1,600 points with this performance, but he wasn't done in Jeju. Check back next issue for a recap of the *Triton* high roller series, where Punsri was able to do even more damage on the felt.

Cheng Hu Headlines Early Champions

The main event was hardly the only newsworthy result of *Triton One's* debut festival. The series started with the \$3,000 QPK Genesis event. A field of 1,185 entries set a new record for *Triton*-branded events while building a prize pool of \$3,174,614. The top 190 finishers earned a share of that sum, with the largest chunk going to eventual champion **Cheng Hu**.

The Chinese player secured the trophy and \$564,000 for the win, a personal best live tournament result by leaps and bounds. He also secured 1,440 POY points with the victory. Germany's Niklas Deitmer was the runner-up, earning \$327,000 for his efforts.

The next event was a \$5,000 single-day affair that drew 48 entries. **Doyle Lee** finished with all the chips, defeating *Triton Jeju WPT Global Slam* champion Anatoly Filatov heads-up. Lee earned \$67,000 as the champion, while Filatov settled for \$48,140.

Several female players ran deep in the \$10,000 mystery bounty event, including Ebony Kenney (9th – \$25,000 and \$35,000 in bounties), five-time bracelet winner Kristen Foxen (3rd – \$116,000 and \$90,000 in bounties), and Thi Xoa Nguyen (2nd – \$155,000 and \$40,000 in bounties).

In the end, **Xiaqing Ji** was the last player standing. He pocketed the \$245,000 top prize, plus \$110,000 in bounty



Cheng Hu



Doyle Lee



Xiaqing Ji



Johan Schultz-Pedersen



Yoko Sasaki



Chenxiang Miao

payouts. The Chinese player now has more than \$800,000 in career cashes to his name.

Foxen now has \$12.6 million in career cashes, extending her lead atop the women's all-time money list.

Johan Schultz-Pedersen outlasted a field of 89 entries in the \$5,000 bounty quattro to earn \$100,500 in total prize money, including \$22,500 in bounty payouts. The Danish player now adds a *Triton* trident to his trophy collection that already includes a bracelet won via the 2024 *WSOP Online Colossus* event.

2025 *Wynn Summer Classic* main event runner-up Jun Obara also placed second in this tournament, earning \$63,400 in total prize money.

Chenxiang Miao And Jun Hao Wu Win Big Down The Stretch

It took almost a decade for Xuan Liu to break through as the first female champion on the *Triton* tour with her victory in the 2025 *Triton Montenegro WPT Global Slam* \$25,000 event. There was a much shorter wait for *Triton One's* first title awarded to a woman, thanks to **Yoko Sasaki's** triumph in the \$2,000 no-limit hold'em event.

The Japanese player outlasted 169 entries to lock up the trophy and \$69,000 in prize money. This was her first recorded live tournament score. Australia's Josh McCully finished second for \$46,800, but he was not yet finished making deep runs at this festival.

While *Triton One* offered plenty of events for players looking to get the *Triton* experience at a lower price point, it only makes sense that a brand built on nosebleed-stakes tournaments would also include a few high rollers. One such tournament was the \$20,000 buy-in. With 56 entries, the prize pool grew to nearly \$1.1 million.

Chenxiang Miao emerged victorious in the end, earning \$315,000. This was a new top score for the Chinese player, besting the \$210,000 he earned with a win in a *WPT Prime* event in Korea last fall.

Josh McCully backed up his second-place showing in the previous event with another runner-up finish in this event. He took home \$226,000 this time around, and added another \$23,800 with a third cash a few days later. All told, he cashed for nearly a quarter of a million dollars during this series.

Another \$2,000 buy-in eight-max no-limit hold'em event drew 132 entries. Vietnam's **Khoa Anh Ngo** came out on top in the end, earning \$58,700. This came just a couple of days removed from his ninth-place showing in the kickoff event which was worth another \$38,202 in prize money.

After final tabling the kickoff event, **Samuel Mullur** came out on top of 189 entries in the \$2,000 buy-in bounty quattro event with \$72,000 and the hardware. The Austrian high roller now has nearly \$6.1 million in career cashes to his name, with more than \$2.7 million of that coming from his

TOURNAMENTS



win in the 2023 *WSOP Paradise* \$25,000 high roller.

The last event to wrap up was a \$15,000 high roller. The tournament drew a sizable field of 353 entries, resulting in a nearly \$5 million prize pool. Singapore's **Jun Hao Wu** walked away with \$969,000 for the win. This was his second career title on the live circuit, and by far his largest payday. He now has more than \$1.5 million in lifetime cashes.

Ebony Kenney took second place for \$614,500. This was the second-largest score for Kenney, who previously finished fifth in a \$200,000 *Triton Invitational* for \$1.7 million. She also finished ninth in a \$10,000 mystery bounty event earlier in the series for \$60,000. The ACR Poker ambassador now has nearly \$3.3 million in total earnings. ♠

Triton One Series - Landing Casino - Jeju, South Korea

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$3,000 NLH Sept. 2-4 Entries: 1,185 Prizepool: \$3,174,614	1 Cheng Hu	\$564,000 (1,440)
	2 Niklas Deitmer	\$327,000 (1,200)
	3 Wang Li	\$231,000 (960)
	4 Po Wang	\$171,000 (720)
	5 Martin Nielsen	\$133,000 (600)
	6 Samuel Mullur	\$99,500 (480)
	7 Cheng Huang	\$76,000 (360)
	8 Aren Bezhanyan	\$54,100 (240)
	9 Khoa Anh Ngo	\$28,202 (120)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,000 NLH 8-Max Sept. 3 Entries: 48 Prizepool: \$222,240	1 Doyle Lee	\$67,000
	2 Anatoly Filatov	\$48,140
	3 Nopparut Piyatassakorn	\$31,000
	4 Lim Chin Wei	\$23,500
	5 Meng Ling Lin	\$18,200
	6 Felix Rabas	\$14,200
	7 Tharit Nanthana	\$11,300
	8 Park Yu Cheung	\$8,900

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,000 NLH KO 8-Max Sept. 4-5 Entries: 273 Prizepool: \$2,481,843	1 Xiaqing Ji	\$355,000 (1,080)
	2 Thi Xoa Nguyen	\$195,000 (900)
	3 Kristen Foxen	\$206,000 (720)
	4 Hugues Girard	\$179,000 (540)
	5 Kento Nasu	\$154,143 (450)
	6 Manh Tien Duong	\$56,500 (360)
	7 Jingjun Xia	\$111,600 (270)
	8 Chenxiang Miao	\$55,600 (180)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,000 NLH KO Sept. 4 Entries: 89 Prizepool: \$412,070	1 Johan Schultz-Pedersen	\$100,500 (384)
	2 Jun Obara	\$63,400 (320)
	3 Eric Tsai	\$77,600 (256)
	4 Niko Koop	\$38,300 (192)
	5 Naohiro Matsuda	\$27,800 (160)
	6 Li Zhang	\$17,800 (128)
	7 Huang Bohao	\$14,070 (96)
	8 Kuan Han Lee	\$10,800 (64)
	9 Park Yu Cheung	\$7,800 (32)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$8,000 NLH Sept. 5-8 Entries: 1,046 Prizepool: \$7,607,558	1 Joshua Gebissa	\$975,225 (1,920)
	2 Punnat Punsri	\$1,205,775 (1,600)
	3 Daiki Shingae	\$573,000 (1,280)
	4 Ruogo Wen	\$431,000 (960)
	5 Dajie Zhuo	\$328,000 (800)
	6 Artur Martirosian	\$241,300 (640)
	7 Kaoru Kishimoto	\$183,000 (480)
	8 Igor Yaroshevskyy	\$130,558 (320)
	9 Sergei Petrushevskii	\$101,700 (160)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$2,000 NLH 8-Max Sept. 5 Entries: 169 Prizepool: \$312,988	1 Yoko Sasaki	\$69,000 (312)
	2 Josh Mccully	\$46,800 (260)
	3 Kaifan Wang	\$32,200 (208)
	4 Tingjia Cao	\$26,300 (156)
	5 Yuzhu Wang	\$21,000 (130)
	6 Florencio Campomanes	\$16,188 (104)
	7 Haohui Ma	\$11,800 (78)
	8 Mehdi Chaoui	\$8,500 (52)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$20,000 NLH Sept. 6 Entries: 56 Prizepool: \$1,075,200	1 Chenxiang Miao	\$315,000 (360)
	2 Josh Mccully	\$226,000 (300)
	3 Chi Chu	\$146,700 (240)
	4 Isaac Haxton	\$110,800 (180)
	5 Kazuyuki Tanemura	\$86,000 (150)
	6 Hui Chen	\$66,000 (120)
	7 Kiat Lee	\$52,600 (90)
	8 Qiao Du	\$40,900 (60)
	9 Shaoshuai Li	\$31,200 (30)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$2,000 NLH 8-Max Sept. 6 Entries: 132 Prizepool: \$244,464	1 Khoa Anh Ngo	\$58,700 (264)
	2 Tom Heung	\$39,900 (200)
	3 Nikita Voznesenskiy	\$26,200 (176)
	4 Iat Leong	\$21,800 (132)
	5 Yixi Tang	\$17,564 (110)
	6 Niko Koop	\$13,700 (88)
	7 Hao Wang	\$10,300 (66)
	8 Dong Chen	\$7,600 (44)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$15,000 NLH Sept. 7-8 Entries: 353 Prizepool: \$4,995,303	1 Jun Hao Wu	\$969,000 (1,800)
	2 Ebony Kenney	\$614,500 (1,500)
	3 Yeu Hsiang	\$444,000 (1,200)
	4 Xixiang Luo	\$359,000 (900)
	5 Michael Watson	\$284,003 (750)
	6 Yu Xiangyu	\$218,500 (600)
	7 Vamerdino Magsakay	\$162,700 (450)
	8 Stephen Chidwick	\$117,500 (300)
	9 Yew Teng Kah	\$95,500 (150)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$2,000 NLH KO Sept. 7 Entries: 189 Prizepool: \$350,028	1 Samuel Mullur	\$72,000 (336)
	2 Iulian-Remus Blebea	\$47,000 (280)
	3 Park Yu Cheung	\$27,500 (224)
	4 Leong Juns	\$28,700 (168)
	5 Tian Hao	\$22,578 (140)
	6 Qiaonan Liu	\$24,500 (112)
	7 Nariman Yaghmai	\$9,100 (84)
	8 Niklas Deitmer	\$16,800 (56)
	9 Hsuan Lai	\$9,600 (28)



DANIEL LEE VICTORIOUS IN FIRST-EVER PGT VENETIAN LAS VEGAS CLASSIC MAIN EVENT

By Tim Fiorvanti

Daniel Lee



Daniel Lee topped a field of 418 entrants in the inaugural *PokerGO Tour Venetian Las Vegas Classic*, claiming the trophy and the \$250,000 first-place prize. The strong turnout for this initial running of the \$3,300 buy-in tournament saw the \$1 million guarantee easily surpassed, with a total of \$1,253,997 paid out.

As is often the case when a major event wraps up in Vegas, the final table was stacked with familiar names. 2024 *PGT* Player of the Year Jeremy Ausmus entered as the chip leader, only to fall in seventh. Lily Kiletto, who has two *World Poker Tour* final table appearances to her credit, finished as the runner-up.

Doug Lee, the Canadian player who graced *ESPN* broadcasts 20 years ago during an impressive run on the original version of the *WSOP Circuit*, took third. Three-time *WSOP* bracelet winner and 2021 *WSOP Poker Players Championship* runner-up Ryan Leng was also in the mix, finishing fifth. 2023 *WSOP* main event third-place finisher Adam Walton made the official final table but not the final day of the event, settling for eighth place.

But the day belonged to **Daniel Lee**. He started as the shortest stack among the final seven, but quickly doubled through Ausmus. The stacks were bunched up enough that Lee surged into the chip lead thanks to that early win. Kiletto shook things up when she doubled through Doug Lee, as her pocket aces held off Lee's flopped pair of jacks. She'd soon pick off a big bluff from Doug Lee to temporarily move into the lead.

Doug Lee doubled back at the expense of Ausmus, shoving his last 10 big blinds with $\heartsuit Q \diamondsuit 5 \diamondsuit$ and smacking the $\heartsuit 5 \heartsuit$ on the flop to beat Ausmus' $\spadesuit A \clubsuit 8 \diamondsuit$. That left Ausmus with just one big blind, which was soon gone.

Santiago Montes soon lost a preflop race to Daniel Lee to bust in sixth, and Lee continued his upward trajectory by taking out Leng in fifth with a straight. He then took more than half of Daniel Marcus' chips with a straight-over-straight, and claimed the rest when his $\heartsuit A \diamondsuit J \clubsuit$ held against $\heartsuit K \clubsuit 7 \clubsuit$.

Kiletto brought the stacks nearly even when she dispatched Doug Lee in third. Her $\heartsuit K \clubsuit 7 \clubsuit$ held against his $\heartsuit Q \clubsuit 10 \clubsuit$ on a nine-high runout.

While Kiletto pulled ahead early in the match, she and Daniel Lee clashed in a massive pot that swung the tournament for good. Lee opened, Kiletto called, and the flop fell $\heartsuit J \clubsuit 8 \diamondsuit 4 \clubsuit$. Kiletto checked, Lee made a continuation bet, and Kiletto slid out a check-raise. Lee clicked it back, and Kiletto shipped it all-in, having Lee slightly covered.

Lee's $\heartsuit K \spadesuit J \spadesuit$ was ahead, but Kiletto's $\heartsuit K \clubsuit 2 \clubsuit$ could have won her the tournament with a club on the turn or river. The $\heartsuit A \spadesuit$ and $\heartsuit 4 \diamondsuit$ were blanks, though, and Kiletto was left with crumbs. She managed a few double ups to keep her hopes alive, but the comeback was short-lived.

Lee nearly matched his career-best result with this triumph. That \$256,020 score came with the trophy in last year's *APT Manila* main event. He also earned 250 *PGT* points towards the tour's season-long leaderboard with this latest win.

This was the also the second-largest result of Kiletto's career. Her best result came in February 2013, when she finished runner-up in the *WPT Lucky Hearts Open* for \$191,880.

In addition to the main event, the *PGT* also joined forces with The Venetian to host a trio of \$5,000 high rollers from Sept. 14-16. The first drew 51 entries to create a \$255,000 prize pool. **Sam Laskowitz**, fresh off a win in the

Sam Laskowitz



Jeremy Ausmus



Craig Mason



final tournament of the *PGT Bounty Blitz*, came out on top to earn the title and the top prize of \$84,150. Three-time bracelet winner Jim Collopy finished third, while Victoria Livschitz (6th), two-time *WPT* champion and bracelet winner Jonathan Little (7th), and bracelet winner Joey Weissman (8th) also cashed.

The second high roller, held the following day, saw **Jeremy Ausmus** defeat a field of 62 entries to earn \$99,200. Ausmus overcame a stacked final table that included Little (9th), Jeremy Becker (8th), Aram Zobian (7th), Brock Wilson (6th), two-time bracelet winner Shannon Shorr (5th), Collopy (3rd), and bracelet winner Stephen Song (2nd) on his way to hoisting the trophy.

With 288 *Card Player* Player of the Year points bringing his total to 5,855, Ausmus now sits in eighth place on the POY leaderboard presented by CoinPoker. The six-time bracelet winner has made 14 final tables and won three titles in 2025.

The final champion was **Craig Mason**. He bested 49 entrants, defeating Andrew Lichtenberger heads-up to take home \$85,750. Collopy recorded his third straight final-table appearance, finishing seventh. Shorr (6th), Landon Tice (4th), and two-time bracelet winner Joao Simao (3rd) also cashed. ♠

PGT Venetian Classic – Venetian - Las Vegas, NV

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$3,300 NLH	1 Daniel Lee	\$250,000 (1,080)
Sept. 11-15	2 Lily Kiletto	\$170,000 (900)
	3 Doug Lee	\$120,000 (720)
	4 Daniel Marcus	\$82,000 (540)
\$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 418 Prizepool: \$1,253,997	5 Ryan Leng	\$63,000 (450)
	6 Santiago Montes	\$48,000 (360)
	7 Jeremy Ausmus	\$35,000 (270)
	8 Adam Walton	\$25,000 (180)
	9 Ryan Stiner	\$20,000 (90)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,300 NLH	1 Sam Laskowitz	\$84,150 (240)
Sept. 14	2 Aaron Messmer	\$53,550 (200)
	3 Jim Collopy	\$35,700 (160)
	4 Adekunle Olonoh	\$25,500 (120)
Entries: 51 Prizepool: \$255,000	5 Peter Mugar	\$20,400 (100)
	6 Victoria Livschitz	\$15,300 (80)
	7 Jonathan Little	\$10,200 (60)
	8 Joey Weissman	\$10,200 (40)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,300 NLH	1 Jeremy Ausmus	\$99,200 (288)
Sept. 15	2 Stephen Song	\$62,000 (240)
	3 Jim Collopy	\$43,400 (192)
	4 Rick Mechammil	\$31,000 (144)
Entries: 62 Prizepool: \$310,000	5 Shannon Shorr	\$23,250 (120)
	6 Brock Wilson	\$17,050 (96)
	7 Aram Zobian	\$12,400 (72)
	8 Jeremy Becker	\$12,400 (58)
	9 Jonathan Little	\$9,300 (24)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,300 NLH	1 Craig Mason	\$85,750
Sept. 16	2 Andrew Lichtenberger	\$53,900
	3 Joao Simao	\$35,525
	4 Landon Tice	\$25,725
Entries: 49 Prizepool: \$245,000	5 Bob Buckenmayer	\$19,600
	6 Shannon Shorr	\$14,700
	7 Jim Collopy	\$9,800

JACOB HOBDAY TAKES DOWN RECORD WSOP CIRCUIT MAIN EVENT IN MONTREAL

By Ryan Lucchesi

Ontario's Jacob Hobday won the largest event in *WSOP Circuit* history. Hobday defeated a 1,978-entry field in the Playground Poker Club's main event, which created a \$3.2 million prize pool and a \$446,000 payday.

Hobday not only topped the sizable field but also managed to do so after winning his way into the event via a \$75 CAD satellite. By his own admission, this was the largest score of his poker career many times over despite it being his second gold ring.

"Honestly, I don't even know [what to say]. My biggest score before this was around \$60,000 (CAD), and this is just absolutely insane," Hobday said to the *Poker.org* live reporters covering the event.

Hobday was second-to-last in chips when the final table began, but he started to climb the standings as the field started to thin out. He grabbed his first knockout when he sent Dustin Melanson packing in sixth place, and then he got William Blais in fifth place, as well.

He then vaulted to the top of chip counts after eliminating Feizal Satchu in fourth place, and increased his lead when he knocked Jorge Pacheco out in third place, setting up a final showdown against Adrian Ottorino.

The final hand saw Ottorino get in preflop with A♥ 5♥, and Hobday had him covered holding pocket deuces. Hobday flopped a set to seal the deal for the tournament, and



Ottorino was eliminated after failing to improve on the turn or river. He earned \$289,440 as the runner-up. ♠

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Jacob Hobday	\$446,400 (1,620)
2 Adrian Ottorino	\$289,440 (1,350)
3 Jorge Pacheco	\$208,080 (1,080)
4 Feizal Satchu	\$149,040 (810)
5 William Blais	\$108,000 (675)
6 Dustin Melanson	\$80,640 (540)
7 Muhyedine Fares	\$61,254 (405)
8 William Meeks	\$46,800 (270)
9 Alex Bylicki	\$36,360 (135)

© Playground



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MSPT CAREER EARNINGS



Rank	Player	Earnings	Titles	Cashes
1st	Richard Alsup	\$1,010,639	1	58
2nd	Blake Bohn	\$956,726	5	41
3rd	Kou Vang	\$862,342	3	44
4th	Umut Ozturk	\$840,540	1	58
5th	Josh Reichard	\$839,196	2	62
6th	Rob WazWaz	\$794,493	1	65
7th	Aaron Massey	\$775,599	1	33
8th	Daniel Bekavac	\$704,325	4	19
9th	Pavel Plesuv	\$681,212	1	3
10th	Chris Moon	\$673,425	1	27

This spring, the tour formerly known as the *Mid-States Poker Tour* officially rebranded as *Major Series of Poker: The Tour*. The new nomenclature allowed for the *MSPT* acronym to remain in place, which helps avoid confusion when discussing the tour's top performers and their career-long accomplishments on the tour.

According to the *MSPT* official website, more than \$222.6 million in prize money has been awarded since the tour was founded in 2009. There are currently 474 players with at least six figures in lifetime *MSPT* earnings, with only **Richard Alsup** having reached the seven-figure mark. The 2015 *MSPT Meskwaki* main event champion has 58 in-the-money finishes over the years, earning him a spot in the tour Hall of Fame. The Minnesota native's largest score came with a third-place showing in a \$1,600 buy-in event at the Venetian in 2018 for \$273,430.

Five-time *MSPT* main event champion **Blake Bohn** is the closest to becoming the second player to cross into seven-figure territory. Another Hall of Famer from Minnesota, Bohn has won more titles than any other player on the tour, accruing nearly

\$957,000 along the way.

Rounding out the top three is Kou Vang, another *MSPT* Hall of Famer member who hails from the land of 10,000 lakes. The three-time *MSPT* champion has cashed for \$862,342, including earning \$314,145 as the 2023 *MSPT Firekeepers* winner.

Umut Ozturk, the back-to-back player of the year on the tour, sits in fourth place. Ozturk is from St. Paul, giving Minnesota the top four spots on the list. Ozturk is on track to capture his third straight POY title thanks to another stellar year on tour, with two final tables in January and another three in August, including a third-place showing in the *MSPT Jack Cleveland* main event.

Wisconsin native Joshua Reichard sits in fifth place, just over \$1,000 behind Ozturk. Reichard took down the *MSPT Venetian* title in June, adding \$212,939 to his tour totals. The mid-stakes grinder sits one spot better on the *WSOP Circuit* title rankings, where his 16 career rings are good for fourth place overall. He's also ninth on the *Heartland Poker Tour* all-time money list, having won the *HPT Chicago* main event in both 2018 and 2019. ♠

CIRCUIT RESULTS



© APL

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APL Millions	1 Higor Seibel	\$487,687 (1200)
	2 Cooper Feltham	\$327,221 (1000)
	3 Yifan Yao	\$217,183 (800)
	4 Matthew Carlson	\$165,059 (600)
Southport Sharks Southport, Australia	5 Wei Zhu	\$127,413 (500)
	6 Zheming Zhu	\$95,561 (400)
	7 Perry Langley	\$66,604 (300)
	8 Pranav Bhatt	\$40,541 (200)
	9 David Bowen	\$27,509 (100)
A\$1,500 NLH Aug. 17-Sept. 1 A\$2,000,000 GTD Entries: 3,375 Prizepool: \$2,888,730		



© Parkwest Bicycle Casino

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Legends of Poker	1 Yuchen Chen	\$210,160
	2 Huy Lam	\$204,825
Parkwest Bicycle Bell Gardens, CA	3 Amit Hasmukh	\$142,325
	4 Avetis Hekimyan	\$142,040
	5 Dillon Najor	\$140,000
	6 Chap Lipton	\$60,260
\$300/\$600 NLH Aug. 24-Sept. 3 \$1,500,000 GTD Entries: 2,637 Prizepool: \$1,780,760	7 Jeff Croucier	\$47,560
	8 Hriman Gokani	\$36,460
	9 Chahnoon Jung	\$28,450



© APL

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APL Millions	1 Yoon Kang	\$189,413 (864)
	2 Armon Van Wijk	\$136,026 (720)
Southport Sharks Southport, Australia	3 Wai Au	\$81,358 (576)
	4 Brayden Jinks	\$64,670 (432)
	5 Norman Mirza	\$48,814 (360)
	6 Shivam Shah	\$39,636 (288)
A\$5,000 NLH Aug. 31-Sept. 1 A\$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 269 Prizepool: \$834,440	7 Quan Dinh	\$31,291 (216)
	8 Jackson Young	\$25,034 (144)
	9 Bradley Goodman	\$20,028 (72)



© PokerAtlas Tour

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
PokerAtlas Tour	1 Michael Behgam	\$200,000 (960)
	2 Joe Firova	\$194,130 (800)
Texas Card House Dallas, TX	3 Rohit Jain	\$105,650 (640)
	4 Robert Dreyfuss	\$78,260 (480)
	5 Matthew Higgins	\$59,120 (400)
	6 Han Ming Feng	\$47,780 (320)
\$1,100 NLH Aug. 27-Sept. 1 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 1,488 Prizepool: \$1,383,240	7 Stephen Ticsay	\$39,450 (240)
	8 George Bryant	\$31,230 (160)
	9 Rene Rodriguez	\$23,240 (80)

All payouts in USD.
VOLUME 38 / ISSUE 21

TOURNAMENTS



Donald Tenney

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Quarter Million Multi-Room Mayhem	1 Donald Tenney	\$72,200
	2 Luke Becker	\$50,507
Orange City Card Club Orange City, FL	3 Pan Guoan	\$33,212
	4 Corey Paul	\$24,542
\$250 NLH Aug. 27-Sept. 1 \$250,000 GTD Entries: 2,423 Prizepool: \$484,600	5 Jose Rodriguez	\$18,318
	6 Claudemir Osorio	\$14,672
	7 Stephen Nelson	\$11,382
	8 Larry Johnson	\$10,472
	9 Chanda Wadley	\$7,158



Yousef Saleh

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Yousef Saleh	\$149,268 (840)
	2 Kane Keller	\$99,135 (700)
Caesars New Orleans, LA	3 Andrew Dykeman	\$67,291 (560)
	4 Alexander Jones	\$46,704 (420)
\$1,700 NLH Aug. 28-Sept. 1 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 510 Prizepool: \$772,650	5 Samuel Rosen	\$33,161 (350)
	6 Andrew Yurchak	\$24,100 (280)
	7 Joshua Pridgen	\$17,938 (210)
	8 Luke Martin	\$13,681 (140)
	9 Brandon Butler	\$10,699 (70)



James Anderson

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
MSPT	1 James Anderson	\$165,303 (912)
	2 Haroldo Perez	\$101,704 (760)
Jack Cleveland Casino Cleveland, OH	3 Umut Ozturk	\$74,922 (608)
	4 Adam Durbin	\$55,937 (456)
\$1,110 NLH Aug. 28-Sept. 1 \$750,000 GTD Entries: 892 Prizepool: \$863,740	5 Daniel Wolf	\$42,377 (380)
	6 Cassidy Clark	\$32,206 (304)
	7 Matthew Hamilton	\$24,578 (228)
	8 Rodney Colson	\$19,493 (152)
	9 Shiva Dudani	\$15,255 (76)



Richard Malone

Event	Player	Payout
Summer Swing Series	1 Richard Malone	\$77,330 (720)
	2 Harold Park	\$51,545 (600)
bestbet Jacksonville, FL	3 Jacob Fafard	\$38,120 (480)
	4 Brian Arbaugh	\$28,480 (360)
\$1,000 NLH Aug. 28-Sept. 1 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 458 Prizepool: \$393,880	5 Zachary Ryan	\$21,490 (300)
	6 Dee Oakes	\$16,385 (240)
	7 William Minger	\$12,625 (180)
	8 Bradley Beetz	\$9,825 (120)
	9 Jonathan Strange	\$7,730 (60)

© Orange City Card Club

© WSOP / Poker Org

© MSPT

© bestbet Jacksonville

TOURNAMENTS

Amirpasha Emami



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
WSOP Circuit	1 Amirpasha Emami	\$178,273 (768)
	2 Santiago Plante	\$118,472 (640)
	3 Alexander Wong	\$80,753 (512)
Playground Poker Kahnawake, Canada	4 Tommy Nguyen	\$56,451 (384)
	5 Demo Kiriopoulous	\$40,493 (320)
C\$5,000 NLH Aug. 31-Sept. 1 C\$500,000 GTD Entries: 234 Prizepool: \$782,361	6 Carmela DeCiantis	\$29,828 (256)
	7 Allen Shen	\$22,579 (192)
	8 Daniel Chalifour	\$17,578 (128)
	9 Danesh Luthra	\$14,082 (64)

Grant Hinkle



Event	Player	Payout
Oklahoma State Championship	1 Grant Hinkle	\$55,249 (360)
	2 Terry Harrell	\$38,167 (300)
	3 Anthony Finley	\$27,869 (240)
Hard Rock Casino Catoosa, OK	4 Rehman Zahid	\$20,642 (180)
	5 Sarah Renko	\$15,506 (150)
\$800 NLH Aug. 29-31 Entries: 417 Prizepool: \$291,900	6 Johnnie Place	\$11,820 (120)
	7 John Smith	\$9,146 (90)
	8 Eric Salazar	\$7,181 (60)
	9 William Berry	\$5,726 (30)

Lisa Lohman



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Seven Clans Poker Cup	1 Lisa Lohman	\$51,051 (300)
	2 Jeremy Gaubert	\$31,192 (250)
	3 Gerald Melancon	\$22,216 (200)
Coushatta Casino Kinder, LA	4 Robert Donald	\$16,381 (150)
	5 Mark Davis	\$12,342 (125)
\$700 NLH Sept. 12-14 \$150,000 GTD Entries: 374 Prizepool: \$224,400	6 Shawn Calvit	\$9,425 (100)
	7 Jeremy Drewery	\$7,405 (75)
	8 Jacob Seale	\$5,610 (50)
	9 Ronald Lara	\$4,488 (25)

Peter Brown



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
San Diego Grand Stack Series	1 Peter Brown	\$68,192 (720)
	2 Stephen Graner	\$54,651 (600)
	3 Justin Lynch	\$45,293 (480)
Sycuan El Cajon, CA	4 Gerald Cuniff	\$35,148 (360)
	5 Brenton Gill	\$34,341 (300)
\$1,110 NLH Sept. 4-7 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 431 Prizepool: \$416,570	6 Josue Aguirre	\$17,119 (240)
	7 Matthew Salsberg	\$13,451 (180)
	8 Joe Asker	\$10,598 (120)
	9 Mohammad Pourmandi	\$7,744 (60)

TOURNAMENTS

Francis Anderson



© Wynn

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Signature Series Wynn Las Vegas, NV \$1,100 NLH Sept. 4-7 \$400,000 GTD Entries: 574 Prizepool: \$553,910	1 Francis Anderson	\$104,450 (840)
	2 Jason Funke	\$68,123 (700)
	3 Iman Dan	\$52,395 (560)
	4 Craig Mason	\$41,383 (420)
	5 Karapet Galstyan	\$32,070 (350)
	6 Ryan Leng	\$24,354 (280)
	7 Brandon Zuidema	\$18,200 (210)
	8 Byung Shin	\$13,415 (140)
	9 Mahmood Mahdavi	\$9,562 (70)

Lucas Vergara



© Live! Casino Maryland

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Maryland State Championship Live! Casino Hanover, MD \$2,200 NLH Sept. 5-8 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 228 Prizepool: \$500,000	1 Lucas Vergara	\$113,000 (384)
	2 Daniel Lim	\$73,900 (320)
	3 Roy Kim	\$54,000 (256)
	4 Alvin Anton	\$40,000 (192)
	5 Justin Liberto	\$30,000 (160)
	6 Derek Staib	\$22,900 (128)
	7 Nicholas Verderamo	\$17,700 (96)
	8 Joshua Mischel	\$14,000 (64)
	9 Brian Usher	\$11,300 (32)

Joshua Butler



© RGPS

Event	Player	Payout
RunGood Grand Prix Horseshoe Robinsonville, MS \$600 NLH Sept. 5-7 Entries: 627 Prizepool: \$326,040	1 Joshua Butler	\$49,282 (420)
	2 Hamid Izadi	\$40,000 (350)
	3 Christopher Kennedy	\$40,000 (280)
	4 Jamie Kizer	\$21,897 (210)
	5 Nathan Morton	\$16,497 (175)
	6 William Stanford	\$12,577 (140)
	7 Brian Durr	\$9,704 (105)
	8 Dylan Crawford	\$7,579 (70)
	9 Teresa Lammie	\$5,992 (35)

Grant Wang



© Poker.org

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Big, Big Buy In Series Borgata Atlantic City, NJ \$2,200 NLH Sept. 8-9 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 572 Prizepool: \$1,114,000	1 Grant Wang	\$171,075 (840)
	2 Nicholas Verderamo	\$139,125 (700)
	3 Tony Sinishtaj	\$130,745 (560)
	4 Union Lung	\$64,755 (420)
	5 Soheb Porbandarwala	\$45,305 (350)
	6 Joe McKeen	\$36,010 (280)
	7 Sead Duraku	\$29,020 (210)
	8 Demetrius Campbell	\$23,615 (140)
	9 Rajendra Mahadevappa	\$19,250 (70)

TOURNAMENTS

Ian O'Hara



© Poker.org

Jeffrey Stephens



© Poker.org

Event	Player	Payout
Big, Big Buy In Series	1 Ian O'Hara	\$224,685 (420)
	2 Demetrius Campbell	\$140,125 (350)
Borgata Atlantic City, NJ	3 Micah Raskin	\$91,075 (280)
	4 Michael Marder	\$65,160 (210)
\$10,000 NLH Sept. 11-12 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 76 Prizepool: \$752,400	5 Aaron Overton	\$50,170 (175)
	6 Justin Vaysman	\$40,435 (140)
	7 Andrew Porter	\$33,770 (105)
	8 Joseph Lebrun	\$29,530 (70)
	9 Bin Weng	\$27,290 (35)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
WSOP Circuit	1 Jeffrey Stephens	\$72,825 (432)
	2 Daniel Yoshiba	\$48,737 (360)
Horseshoe Hammond, IN	3 Nino Papava	\$34,116 (288)
	4 Oliwer Sankiewicz	\$24,328 (216)
\$400 NLH Sept. 11-14 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 1,660 Prizepool: \$547,800	5 Raymond Xu	\$17,667 (180)
	6 Joseph Trezzo	\$13,078 (144)
	7 Michael Puccio	\$9,869 (108)
	8 Thomas Grutsch	\$7,595 (72)
	9 Jake Mustain	\$5,930 (36)

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 PokerStars European Poker Tour
€5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Adi Rajkovic
150,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 61%
After Flop: 82%
After Turn: 93%



Simon Brandstrom
207,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 39%
After Flop: 18%
After Turn: 7%



PREFLOP

With 185 players remaining and blinds of 2,500-5,000 with a big blind ante of 5,000, Adi Rajkovic raised to 10,000 from the cutoff. Simon Brandstrom called from the big blind.

FLOP



Brandstrom checked, and Rajkovic bet 7,000. Brandstrom check-raised to 28,000, and Rajkovic called.

TURN



Both players checked.

RIVER



Brandstrom bet 48,000. Rajkovic moved all-in for 112,000, and Brandstrom folded.

COMMENTARY:

The *EPT Barcelona* €5,300 main event drew its typically huge field of 2,045 entries for a prize pool of €9,918,250. When this hand took place, just 185 remained, all in the money and vying for a first-place prize of more than €1.4 million. Former *EPT Barcelona* champion Simon Brandstrom tried a check-raise bluff after defending his big blind with small suited connectors and flopping a gutshot straight draw against Adi Rajkovic. Covering his opponent in the money of the tournament, he had some leverage that allowed him to apply pressure, and his hand was too weak to check-call anyway. Rajkovic had a straightforward call with top pair and a bad kicker. Once the flush came in on the turn, Brandstrom slowed down with a check, but he actually had a hand that was supposed to keep barreling after the flop bluff, according to the solver. The out-of-position player needs some bluffs that don't contain a club, otherwise they'll have showdown value every time the board runs out with backdoor clubs. Straight draws make the most sense in that regard. In the hand, both players checked, and Brandstrom nailed his gin card on the river. With 112,000 left to play and 83,000 in the middle, Brandstrom used a bit of a strange sizing, betting a little more than half the pot. He had a hand that was easily worth an all-in shove, especially after Rajkovic checked back the turn. By not shoving for value, he exposed himself to the possibility of being put in a very awkward spot if Rajkovic shoved himself. That's exactly what happened as Rajkovic decided to use the nut blocker to bluff. Despite getting almost 3:1 on a call, Brandstrom decided on a hero fold, which cost him a large pot.

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



© Moneymaker Tour



© 888Poker

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Moneymaker Tour Hard Rock Cincinnati, OH \$600 NLH Sept. 11-14 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 574 Prizepool: \$300,000	1 Doug Holland	\$46,210 (420)
	2 Anonymous	NA
	3 Alex Bergfors	\$35,000 (280)
	4 Jeffrey Atkins	\$28,000 (210)
	5 James Sears	\$16,200 (175)
	6 Jerry Zehr	\$12,240 (140)
	7 Joseph Graff	\$9,360 (105)
	8 David Rasnake	\$7,440 (70)
	9 Jeffrey Fraley	\$5,880 (35)

Event	Player	Payout
888poker LIVE The Poker Room London, United Kingdom £1,100 NLH Sept. 11-14 £250,000 GTD Entries: 367 Prizepool: \$523,170	1 Gang Wang	\$117,776 (600)
	2 Calogero Morreale	\$77,792 (500)
	3 Michael Rosaman	\$51,680 (400)
	4 Paul Vasnunes	\$34,680 (300)
	5 Akshat Bansal	\$24,004 (250)
	6 Anonymous	NA
	7 Mario Trattou	\$13,532 (150)
	8 Jamie Dwan	\$11,220 (100)
	9 Geoffrey Mooney	\$9,656 (50)

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 PokerStars European Poker Tour
€5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Olivier Fazio
658,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 57%
After Flop: 74%
After Turn: 80%



Jason Wheeler
304,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 16%
After Flop: 7%
After Turn: N/A



PREFLOP

With 83 players remaining and blinds of 6,000-12,000 with a big blind ante of 12,000, Olivier Fazio raised to 25,000 from under the gun. Juan Carlos Vecino called from the button, and Jason Wheeler called from the big blind.



Juan Carlos Vecino
1,200,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 21%
After Flop: 13%
After Turn: 20%



Wheeler and Fazio checked. Vecino bet 25,000. Wheeler folded, and Fazio check-raised to 75,000. Vecino called.



Fazio bet 130,000, and Vecino called.



Fazio checked, and Vecino moved all-in. Fazio folded.

COMMENTARY:

As the preflop raiser on a board that contained a pair which he rarely connects with, Olivier Fazio checked. Multi-way hands usually call for more passive play from everyone involved, and Fazio started with the correct action after he flopped his flush draw. Juan Carlos Vecino decided to start bluffing with a flush draw of his own. Generally, the worse the flush draw, the better it is to be aggressive because it becomes more difficult to win a showdown. Six-high certainly fit the bill. Jason Wheeler had a no-brainer fold, but Fazio had the option to check-raise or continue with a call. He decided on the aggressive route, but the standard solver play was actually to call. The pair of sevens on the board put him at a nut disadvantage because the in-position player in that situation has trips much more often. An under-the-gun opener has more high cards and pairs than a player calling a raise from the button. Fazio would have been in a hairy spot against a three-bet, but he wound up seeing the turn. He continued barreling with his draw, and Vecino called after improving to a combo draw. He could have bluffed all in, but calling was a reasonable option as well. On the river, Fazio picked up showdown value, and he had just under a pot-sized bet remaining. A shove wasn't likely to get called by anything worse, so he checked. Vecino had to decide between bluffing all in and giving up. Most of the time, the river decisions with missed draws have a similar mechanic to the flopped draws in that the worst ones make the best bluffs. Vecino had a hand at the bottom of his range with no showdown value, so he went for it, and he was rewarded when Fazio conceded the pot.

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

Final Table Takedown: Jason Hickey Binks First PokerGO Tour Title

By Craig Tapscott



Two decades after finding the game, Jason Hickey is rounding into form as a poker player. The Austin, Texas resident has been racking up significant results over the last four years on the tournament circuit, most recently finding the winner's circle in Las Vegas during the *PokerGO Tour Bounty Blitz* series.

Hickey has made some deep runs at the *WSOP*, including final tables in the *Millionaire Maker* and the \$5,000 no-limit hold'em events, along with six-figure scores at the Venetian and Wynn. Earlier this year, the husband and father of two also final tabled *The Lodge Championship* main event.

It all adds up to nearly \$1.8 million in tournament cashes. That's quite an impressive haul for someone who spent the majority of his poker career cornering fish at the cash game tables.

Card Player caught up with the former college baseball standout to discuss a couple of key hands he played in his most recent win.

Craig Tapscott: When did you decide to pursue poker as a profession?

Jason Hickey: I was an athlete from when I was four years old. My dad was my coach my whole childhood, and I played three sports competitively. All I knew was competition. But then I almost lost my arm in a skiing accident in college, lost my scholarship, and also my identity.

I was introduced to poker, like many, during the Moneymaker *WSOP*. After playing a few times, the game

just took me. I started studying a bunch via books like *Super System* and within two years had built a \$40,000 online bankroll while finishing my degree.

After I graduated, I didn't look back. I started playing live and traveling. I wrecked my life pretty badly from 2008 to 2012, though. I got hurt again and was addicted to painkillers. I took three years off from poker to learn how to live life sober and healthy.

But deep down, I always knew I had unfinished business with poker and wanted another opportunity to do it the right way. I came back to cash games in 2015 and was fortunate to end up in some great private games for a few years. Once 2020 came and those games dried up, a good friend exposed me to tournaments, and I fell in love with the game all over again, going deep down the strategy rabbit hole with solvers.

Event: PGT Bounty Blitz Mystery Bounty
Buy-In: \$5,100
Entrants: 59
Prize Pool: \$177,000
First-Place Prize: \$50,000 +\$47,000 in bounties

CT: The bounty aspect of the event adds a whole other dynamic from start to finish. Please touch on that.

JH: That's true. In this hand, there were some "bounty-specific" dynamics that are worth noting. There were four



bounties remaining valued at \$25,000, \$10,000, \$3,000, and \$3,000.

With a bit of math, we can see that each bounty is worth an average of approximately \$10,000. With the next pay jump being only \$7,000, this is a crucial stage of the tournament to not only fight for bounties but, for me, to maintain second chip position while covering the other two opponents.

CT: What advice do you have when it comes to approaching bounty MTTs? What do players need to pay more attention to, and what mistakes do they make?

JH: This format was a mystery bounty, which is a bit different, but for the standard bounty format, where the bounty counts for 20 percent to 50 percent of the prize pool, it's important to understand what that is worth in terms of chips, especially when you get deep.

You will end up in situations where, for example, you may be getting close to the correct odds to call off in a spot, but because of the bounty, you will add x amount of chips to the pot, which makes a break-even or slightly losing call worth money.

**HAND
NO. 1**

Stacks: Jason Hickey – 1,850,000 (31 BB)
Bryan Swanson – 475,000 (8 BB) Anthony
Marquez – 3,800,000 (63 BB)
Blinds: 30,000-60,000 with a 60,000 big blind
ante
Players Remaining: 4

CT: Let's talk preflop.

JH: The cutoff (Steve Zolotow) folded, and I looked down at pocket tens on the button with 31 big blinds. The small blind (Swanson) had eight big blinds. My first decision was whether I wanted to limp or raise.

I ultimately decided to raise because the big blind

(Marquez) had a propensity to see flops the cheapest way possible unless he had very strong hands. He would call very wide versus opens, but just check when he had the opportunity to preflop.

Hickey raised to 125,000 holding 10♦ 10♥.

JH: I also liked raising because I was at the top of my range, so if the small blind went all in and the chip leader wanted to try and isolate, I was happy to call off with that strong of a hand.

CT: Let's talk a bit about bet sizing. What are some of the biggest leaks you see from players?

JH: Non-professionals tend not to stick with a standard open size and will fluctuate it based on strength. I try to determine my sizing decisions preflop by who is in what positions and ultimately what I want to accomplish.

A lot of players use the same sizes on flops regardless of flop texture. When you use the solver a lot, you can see that certain textures determine sizings. Equally important is whether you're in position or out of position.

Many players don't factor this in and use too small bet sizes when out of position and also too big of sizes in position. There is also a lot of checking

out of position with range on certain textures, which a lot of players rarely do.

Swanson called from the small blind, and Marquez called from the big blind.

JH: I was surprised by the small blind's call, but here we went, three ways to the flop.

Flop: 8♠ 5♠ 5♥

Swanson checked. Marquez bet 80,000.

JH: The chip leader bet 80,000 into 435,000, or about one-fifth pot.

CT: Did you have any reads to fall back on after he donked out here?

JH: I had only seen him lead or donk out of position in one hand the previous day, where he had flopped a flush. Every other hand I had played with him, he had played "in flow," meaning when he called versus a preflop raiser, he checked to them.

CT: So what's the best way to proceed with your overpair?

JH: This was alarming to me, but the main point is I would rarely raise this bet, especially with the short stack behind, because we wouldn't want him to fold an eight, for example. So...

Hickey called, and Swanson folded.

Turn: 7♠

JH: Now the flush came in and he bet...

Marquez bet 225,000.

JH: He bet 225,000 into 595,000 (about 1/3 pot). In theory, as played, I can never fold my hand. I am completely under-repped, and he had been way too loose aggressive (LAG) throughout the final table.

CT: What else was on your mind after he bet this turn?

JH: The dynamics here with the bounty made an exploitative fold have more merit, because even if I was being



bluffed, I still maintain a covering stack over the other two opponents.

Hickey folded, and Marquez won the pot of 595,000.

JH: We ultimately folded, and he had A-5 offsuit. These kinds of decisions can be either really good or really bad, and I have experienced both firsthand. Luckily, this time I was correct.



Stacks: Jason Hickey – 3,600,000 (60 BB)
 Anthony Marquez – 3,200,000 (53 BB)
Blinds: 30,000-60,000 with a 60,000 big blind ante
Players Remaining: 3

JH: We were now chip leading, which is critical in a bounty format, especially because the \$25,000 bounty is still in play.

Another essential part to mention is that during the previous break, I was made aware of how wide or loose the button player was opening and given a bunch of examples.

Marquez opened to 125,000 on the button, and Zolotow folded from the small blind.

JH: We are in the big blind with 9♥ 9♦.

CT: It's a very strong hand in this dynamic.

JH: Yes, this is obviously a strong hand in full ring, but three-handed, this is a massive hand. Added to the fact that I had the chip lead and had received the new information during the break.

CT: What's the plan, then?

JH: In theory, there is a lot of flattening here from me because we are so deep and there's a short stack that's still in play. However, I felt like in-game three-betting was non-negotiable.

It's also important to note that we were over 50 big blinds effective with a very short stack still in. So, there was a fair amount of ICM implications to consider.

Hickey raised to 560,000.

CT: Can you share why you chose that size?

JH: If we were shallower, I would have chosen a smaller

size potentially, but because we are deep, I went with a larger size. This would not be a fun spot if he jammed.

Marquez called.

JH: I want to note that he called after some deliberation.

Flop: 5♠ 3♠ 2♥

CT: How did you go about pinpointing his range?

JH: When trying to range someone LAG, I usually start with what they don't have. I didn't think he would slow-play almost ever against me in this particular spot. But we never say never, so I thought A-A, and that is probably it. I discounted pocket kings through tens, because I think he four-bets or jams those preflop a high frequency of the time based on how he played.

It also felt like A-K and maybe A-Q go in a lot preflop. So, it felt like pocket deuces through eights range and suited A-x, suited Broadways range most likely.

CT: I'm assuming this is an easy continuation bet.

JH: Well, on this board, with our hand having a lot of vulnerability on many turn cards, I am betting a bunch. I went back and forth between sizes but eventually decided on a two-third pot bet.

Hickey bet 775,000.

JH: I thought the bigger size would hopefully cause him to make a mistake with some pairs I'm beating, and he would also maybe jam some wheel A-x hands that have pairs now and a gutshot.

If he had a hand like K♠ Q♠, J♠ 10♠, etc., we would just have to be all-in against a hand with a ton of equity, but he may have called with these sometimes to see turns instead.

Marquez moved all-in, and Hickey called. Villain showed 6♠ 6♣.

Turn: Q♠

River: A♥

Hickey won the pot of 6,430,000.

JH: He ended up going all in, and we called. This ended up being the most important pot of the tournament for me, and I won it all three hands later for my first PGT title.

Hickey is also a poker coach and can be contacted on IG @jasonthomashickey and on Twitter/X @jason_hickey.

THINK AHEAD!

By Jonathan Little

When you are playing poker (or doing anything in life), thinking ahead will lead to better outcomes. For example, when you walk across the street, you should know what you are going to do if you suddenly see a bus heading straight toward you. Better yet, you could take a look in both directions before taking your first step into the street to be sure there are no buses heading your way.

In poker, before you make any bet, stop and think about what that bet will result in, both on the current betting round as well as the future betting rounds, and determine if the probable results are in your best interest.

Suppose someone raises first to act at an eight-handed table to three big blinds out of their 100 big blind stack and you are in second position with A♠ 10♣. While A-10 is normally a decent hand, in this situation, it is an easy fold because of the many bad things that can happen on the future betting rounds, with almost no good things that can happen.

While A-10 could certainly be the best hand at the moment, consider how the hand will play out. Before the flop, you could easily be dominated by the initial raiser, putting you in bad shape. To make matters worse, someone yet to act could three-bet, forcing you to either put in more money poorly or to fold. If you flop an ace and the initial raiser has a better ace, you will lose a lot of money.

If an ace flops and your opponent does not have an ace, you



will win a small pot. If a 10 comes and they have an overpair, you will lose a lot of money. If a 10 comes and they have worse than a 10, you will win a small pot. If you miss, you will probably lose the pot when you fold to a continuation bet. So, you are likely to either lose a large pot or win a small pot, making a fold the clear best play.

Suppose instead of A-10, you had J♣ 10♣. Now, you will not lose your whole stack if you make one pair because it will be a marginal made hand, but if you flop a premium hand or a good draw and improve to a premium hand by the river,

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you will often win a large pot. You will also find numerous semi-bluffing opportunities, which will allow you to win some pots when your opponent misses. This is a situation where you will either lose a small pot or win a large one, which is a fine outcome.

Poker, like all games, is about trying to figure out the optimal decision for each situation. Each decision in poker is not made in a vacuum. Because of this, you always need

to constantly think about how each decision will impact the next. As long as you think ahead and always have a plan, you will rarely find yourself too lost.

If you find that you are consistently confused, you are either making poor decisions on the earlier betting rounds or you have not studied the game nearly enough. Studying and drilling common spots using a GTO trainer (I recommend PeakGTO) will go a long way to ensuring you understand the game at a fundamental level. Good luck in your games!

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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.



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TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 PokerStars European Poker Tour
€5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 64%
After Flop: 93%
After Turn: 91%

Tobias Leknes
1,630,000 Chips



Martin Nielsen
2,070,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 35%
After Flop: 7%
After Turn: 9%

PREFLOP

With 75 players remaining and blinds of 10,000-15,000 with a big blind ante of 15,000, Tobias Leknes raised to 30,000 from the cutoff. Martin Nielsen called from the big blind.

FLOP



Nielsen checked, and Leknes bet 25,000. Nielsen check-raised to 80,000. Leknes called.

TURN



Nielsen bet 175,000, and Leknes called.

RIVER



Nielsen bet 500,000, and Leknes called.

COMMENTARY:

Preflop, everything was normal as Tobias Leknes opened and Martin Nielsen called. Despite his weak holding, Nielsen still had a hand that couldn't fold to a min-raise. His check-raise bluff on the flop was much too wide, but he did have some backdoor potential with his diamonds. Hands that block some value or have immediate equity like 10-9 make for better bluffs in that spot. In any case, Leknes wasn't going anywhere with top pair, top kicker. Once he reached the turn with a worthless 10-high hand that blocked the nuts, Nielsen decided to keep bluffing. Playing deep stacks, only big sizes really made sense, and that's what he used. Smaller sizes would only make it comfortable for Leknes to call down with his bluff-catchers. Leknes still had a hand that was far too strong to let go even facing a large size. On a brick river, Nielsen had no reason to stop with his story that he had a big hand, so he used a pot-sized bet. Leknes finally had a tough decision. Against a balanced range of bluffs and value, A-Q is actually indifferent between calling and folding in this situation, meaning that both plays would have a similar expectation over the long-term. Had Leknes known his opponent was check-raising the flop much wider than he was supposed to, he would have snap-called. As it was, he still decided on a call, and Nielsen got punished for being out of line on the flop.

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A MAJOR CONFRONTATION AVOIDED: WSOP MAIN EVENT FINAL TABLE

By Kevin Haney

At every final table there are usually a couple of key hands that act as inflection points, those that either completely change the momentum and dynamics of the table or ultimately propel a player to a commanding position where the win seems so destined that playing it out appears to be a formality.

Michael “The Grinder” Mizrachi won his first pivotal hand of the *WSOP* main event final table when his A-K cracked the kings of John Wasnock. Had the Grinder lost that flip he would have finished in seventh place, but after spiking an ace on the river, he claimed a big chip lead which he certainly knew how to leverage.

The next potential inflection point occurred with five players left, blinds of 1,000,000-2,000,000 with a 2,000,000 big blind ante, and the following prizes left to play for:

1st - \$10,000,000
2nd - \$6,000,000
3rd - \$4,000,000
4th - \$3,000,000
5th - \$2,400,000

The various chip counts and corresponding ICM values of the stacks were as follows:

	Stack	ICM Value of Stack
Kenny Hallaert	148,900,000	\$5,751,616
Braxton Dunaway	83,300,000	\$4,599,031
B - John Wasnock	105,300,000	\$5,029,319
SB - Michael Mizrachi	210,400,000	\$6,560,746
BB - Luka Bojovic	36,500,000	\$3,459,287

As a reminder, the Independent Chip Model (ICM) uses stack sizes to estimate a player's overall equity in a tournament based upon how often a player is expected to finish in each position. It approximates how much each player's chip position is currently worth assuming all players are equal in skill. While ICM has its shortcomings, all serious tournament players are aware of the implications of winning or losing a big pot.

Kenny Hallaert opened to 4,000,000 from first position with $\text{A}\heartsuit\text{K}\heartsuit$, Braxton Dunaway three-bet to 11,500,000 holding $7\spadesuit 7\clubsuit$, and the action folded to the Grinder in the

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 PokerStars European Poker Tour
€5,300 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Thomas Eychenne
19,900,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 43%
After Flop: 77%
After Turn: 9%



Umberto Zaffagnini
9,280,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 56%
After Flop: 23%
After Turn: 84%

PREFLOP

With five players remaining and blinds of 125,000-250,000 with a big blind ante of 250,000, Thomas Eychenne raised to 550,000 from the cut-off. Umberto Zaffagnini three-bet to 1,400,000 from the small blind, and Eychenne called.

FLOP



Both players checked.

TURN



Zaffagnini bet
1,200,000, and
Eychenne called.

RIVER



Zaffagnini bet
4,000,000, and
Eychenne folded.

COMMENTARY:

When this hand took place, Thomas Eychenne held a pretty big chip lead, but there were no stacks shorter than 30 big blinds, so none of the other players were under any immediate ICM pressure. That opened up the opportunity for Umberto Zaffagnini to three-bet bluff out of the small blind with A-9, but as the commentary team noted, he may have used too small of a sizing to garner an immediate fold from a hand like 10-8 suited. The J-8-7 flop with a flush draw was highly coordinated, and the out-of-position player shouldn't use any small sizings according to the solver. Since betting big would put him in no-man's land on many turn cards, Zaffagnini checked. Eychenne had a natural check behind with his pair plus draw, as that hand wouldn't want to face a check-raise. Zaffagnini hit his disguised straight on the turn, and he decided to bet, using a sizing around one-third of the pot. The most natural bluffs in this spot would be flush draws and hands with a queen in them that didn't have showdown value, such as K-Q. Eychenne was beating those hands, but he could only continue with a call, or he would force out the bluffs while keeping in the hands ahead of his two pair. The river paired the board, and Zaffagnini bet most of his remaining chips with his straight. If stacks were deeper, Eychenne would have had a prime candidate for a bluff, blocking full houses. As it stood, he may have expected to face more full houses than straights in his opponent's value range, making 10-8 a possible hero-call candidate against the aforementioned turn bluffs. He tanked for a very long time, using several time extensions, before he found the correct fold to preserve his chip lead, which he eventually converted into the win.

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small blind who glanced down at two jacks. Within ten seconds he double-fisted two stacks of the peach chips forward making it 40,000,000 to go.

This was just a brutal spot for Kenny. Yes, he was holding A-K, but he also realized that Mizrachi had a very good hand since he pot committed himself against Braxton, and 83,000,000 chips is too many to gift away. The Grinder's large sizing made the situation particularly awkward, as Kenny had to consider the possibility that even his all-in wager would frequently get called. And it's clear that finishing in fifth place for \$2.4 million is a relative disaster given that his stack is currently worth around \$5.75 million.

Kenny understandably tanked for quite some time and at one point turned in the direction of the dealer as if he was about to declare himself all-in, but those words were never spoken, and he ultimately folded.

There was a ton of discussion of this hand in the online forums and social media with several pundits suggesting that Kenny erred by not moving all his chips into the middle. To my knowledge there wasn't any type of ICM analysis performed, so I was curious and crunched some numbers under various assumptions, which I will share here.

Kenny's ICM Consequences

ICM Value of Stack When Folding: \$5,734,165
 Going All-In and Winning Uncontested: \$6,510,700
 Going All-In and Winning Showdown: \$7,738,754
 Going All-In and Losing Showdown: \$2,400,000

If Kenny had moved in and the Grinder folded, he would have gotten a bump of \$776,535 in the ICM value of his stack. From the safety of my couch, I thought Kenny had no choice other than to fold as the risk involved wasn't worth the potential rewards, but if Mizrachi is capable of mucking some good hands, then this increase is quite substantial.

The big question is, would Mizrachi have folded the jacks? He was getting a little less than 2:1 on his money and

therefore needed around 35% equity from a chip perspective. However, it's clear there is far more to consider than the pure pot odds.

It's unclear whether the Grinder would have called or not. On one hand he was running white hot, and he doesn't strike me as the type to abandon 40,000,000 of his chips in the middle. But on the other hand, he might figure Kenny was at the very pinnacle of his range possibly meaning a pair of queens or better.

It's a huge swing. If pocket jacks hit the muck Kenny increases the value of his stack by \$776,000. But when he gets called, Kenny only has a 43% chance to win and on average loses over a million dollars in expectation:

Expected ICM Value of Stack when called by Jacks

$$= [(Probability\ Win) * (ICM\ after\ win) + (Probability\ Loss) * (ICM\ after\ loss)]$$

$$= [(43\%) * (7,738,754) + (57\%) * (\$2,400,000)]$$

$$= \$4,695,664$$

Reduction in ICM

$$= \$4,695,664 - \$5,734,165\ (ICM\ if\ Kenny\ folds) = (\$1,038,501)$$

The Grinder also could have had queens where the expected loss would be the same. And while A-K does help block aces and kings, someone can still get them and in these cases the amount lost in expectation would have been massive.

We can put together a grid of the various hands the Grinder could be playing here and the associated probabilities of having been dealt them along with an assumption on whether he calls or folds. We then multiply the probabilities by the ICM results and sum it all up.

It's going to be assumed that Mizrachi would have called with A-K but raise-folded with A-Q and pocket tens. Had he called with pocket jacks the result could have been a sizeable loss in expected ICM value for Kenny of around \$263,000.

On a side note, it's interesting that under these assumptions the ICM implications were almost neutral (slight reduction in expectation of around \$21,000); a tournament altering pot, but from an ICM sense it's as if nothing happened.

What about other hands such as pocket nines or A-J suited? Expanding the range to include more hands that would have raise-folded would support an all-in move. The Grinder was probably envisioning Dunaway as his most likely opponent, and he was playing quite loose and aggressively, thus it's possible other holdings would be in the range. From a theoretical perspective, other hands have to be included in order to make a jam from Kenny correct.

But at the end of the day, it probably came down to Kenny's assessment on whether he could get a fold from a hand like pocket jacks, which was the exact holding he was up against. A major confrontation was avoided, and it's hard to find fault in that decision other than being results oriented in how the tournament ended up. ♠



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.

Punt Of The Day: Getting A Speeding Ticket In Paris

By Sam Greenwood

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

When I started *Punt Of The Day*, I thought having a *Types Of Errors Made* section would help me and the reader spot specific leaks in my game, but oftentimes I have used that section to focus on something simple, which is the Goldilocks problem.

Is the amount of money I put in the pot too much, not enough, or just right?

When you're value betting, it's helpful to think of how much money your hand is worth; when you're bluffing, it's helpful to think of what hands you'd value bet with that size. A reason I focus on the amount of money I put in the pot is because putting the wrong amount of money in the pot tends to be much more costly than other technical mistakes.

If you pick the wrong size, or have the wrong range strategy, or pick a combo that is slightly off, there is a good chance that you will be fine against a human opponent who doesn't know your exact strategy and isn't countering it perfectly. But if you regularly put three times as much money in the pot as you're supposed to, it will hurt in the long run.

In today's hand, I get every post-flop decision wrong.

Some with too much money, some with not enough, but only one is really costly.

Event: 2024 EPT Paris \$25,000 High Roller

The Hand

With blinds of 1,000-1,500 with a 1,500 big blind ante, the action folded to me on the button and I raised to 4,000 with 7♦ 5♦. Steve O'Dwyer called in the big blind, sitting on a stack of 115,000.

Flop: A♠ 9♠ 8♣ (pot: 10,500)

Steve checked, and I bet 3,000. He called.

Turn: 9♦ (pot: 16,500)

Steve bet 4,000. I raised to 16,000, and he called.

River: K♣ (pot: 48,500)

Steve checked, and I moved all-in for his 92,500 effective stack. He called with A♥ 2♥ to double up.

What Was I Thinking?

I thought a flop of A-9-8 was a pure continuation-bet on the button vs. the big blind, and I thought the boards I checked would be the ace-high boards where the big blind has a lot of straight draws, but the cards are smaller, like A-7-6 with a flush draw.

I thought my hand, a bad gutshot, would mix between big bet and a blocker bet, and I rolled a small number and

Hi, my name is Sam Greenwood.

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Steve O'Dwyer



blocked.

On the turn, Steve's lead makes sense. He does often check-call the flop with a nine, and leading the turn with a small bet from the big blind when the middle or bottom card pairs is a normal play.

I thought my turn bluff-raising range would consist of a variety of flush and straight draws, along with some no-equity bluffs with key blockers like K♠ 10x. I rolled an aggressive number and raised, and Steve called.

On the river, I thought my value betting range would be trips or better, and my bluffs would be hands like mine that played the board or worse, so I thought the appropriate size was all-in. Steve called with A-2.

What I Got Wrong

The flop is a high-frequency check with hand and range, and when I bet on this board, I favor a bigger size. I got the mechanic about the types of boards I check wrong as well. A-9-8 checks more often than A-7-6, but more importantly, I didn't even consider checking on the flop, which is my highest frequency play.

On the turn, my logic is sound, and while 7-5 never raises, 6-5 does a ton of raising. 6-5 is also a hand that bets large on the flop close to 100% of the time, because it can fold out some 10-6 the big blind has, which makes it less likely the button gets straight-over-straighted. Raising with 7-5 is technically wrong, but it doesn't lose much, and 7-5 resembles the types of hands that might raise.

What I got wrong on the turn was my overall range strategy, which includes raising a ton of random no-draw hands like K♣ 2♣. It's a bluff that looks pretty wild, but it blocks the big blind's strongest non-full house 9-x hands, and I can get bad top pairs to fold but also get called by J-10 and flush draws occasionally and win at showdown.

Sometimes I punt because I make a complex technical mistake. In this hand, my river mistake started from an avoidable mistake. I misread the board!

I didn't realize that on the river, all non-full house nines chop. Therefore, if I have a hand like Q-9, picking overbet all-in is very optimistic. It means I need to get called by a bare ace more often than he has a full house. That's hard to do.

My river range is polar, but even half-pot, in-position bets on the river are polarized. Most of my bluffs have 0% equity; a bad nine still has 90% equity, but a lot of that equity is driven from hands that we chop with or hands that will check-fold.

However, even on a deuce river that doesn't force chops, K-9 through J-9 rarely go all-in despite having a ton of equity. The reason for that is that they're trying to get called by a nine. If you have a nine in

your hand and your all-in is trying to get called by a nine, it makes sense to bet a smaller size that will get called by an ace more often.

It's also hard to bluff for overpot when you can't bluff with blockers, your opponent won't have a nine often enough when you're value betting, and will have it too often when you're bluffing.

Types Of Errors Made

Bad Flop Strategy

Misread The Board

Grade

For a hand where I got every decision wrong, I actually think I did okay here. None of my decisions lose a ton of EV. If I had 6♥ 5♥ this would be a normal, solver-approved poker hand. It's better to bluff 6-5 than 7-5, because you want your opponent to have 10-7, but it's not that costly overall.

The main problem with this hand is in aggregate. I would have been putting way too much money in the pot on the river with bluffs and trips. It's not the costliest play to expand your bluffing and value-betting ranges.

It's possible that when I actually do have trips in this spot, I would have read my hand correctly, but I did not this time, when I had a bluff representing trips. That could be a big problem facing an observant opponent.

Overall, this hand wasn't too bad, and I gifted chips to Steve. (One of my premium subscribers!) But when I misunderstand my range strategy because I made an error as simple as misreading the board, it's hard to give myself a good grade. Let's say B-. ♠



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

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SCHEDULES

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OCTOBER	Oct. 2-Nov. 2	Fall Classic	Wynn ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Oct. 6-Nov. 23	DeepStack Showdown	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Oct. 9-20	WSOP Circuit - Florida	Harrah's Casino & Resort ■ Pompano Beach, FL
	Oct. 14-25	PGT PLO Series II	ARIA PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Oct. 15-26	Pinktober Poker Open	Seminole Hard Rock Casino ■ Tampa, FL
	Oct. 17-Nov. 2	WPT Bay 101 Shooting Star	Bay 101 ■ San Jose, CA
	Oct. 19-26	PokerStars Open - Maryland	Live! Casino & Hotel ■ Hanover, MD
	Oct. 23-Nov. 3	WSOP Circuit - Lake Tahoe	Caesars Republic Lake Tahoe ■ Lake Tahoe, NV
	Oct. 27-29	Super High Roller Bowl	ARIA PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Oct. 28-Nov. 2	Major Series of Poker Tour - Iowa	Riverside Casino & Resort ■ Riverside, IA
	Oct. 29-Nov. 9	WSOP Circuit - Choctaw	Choctaw Casino Resort ■ Durant, OK
	Oct. 30-Nov. 18	WPT bestbet Scramble	bestbet ■ Jacksonville, FL
NOVEMBER	Nov. 3-12	NAPT Las Vegas	Resorts World ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Nov. 6-17	WSOP Circuit - Chicago	Grand Victoria Casino ■ Elgin, IL

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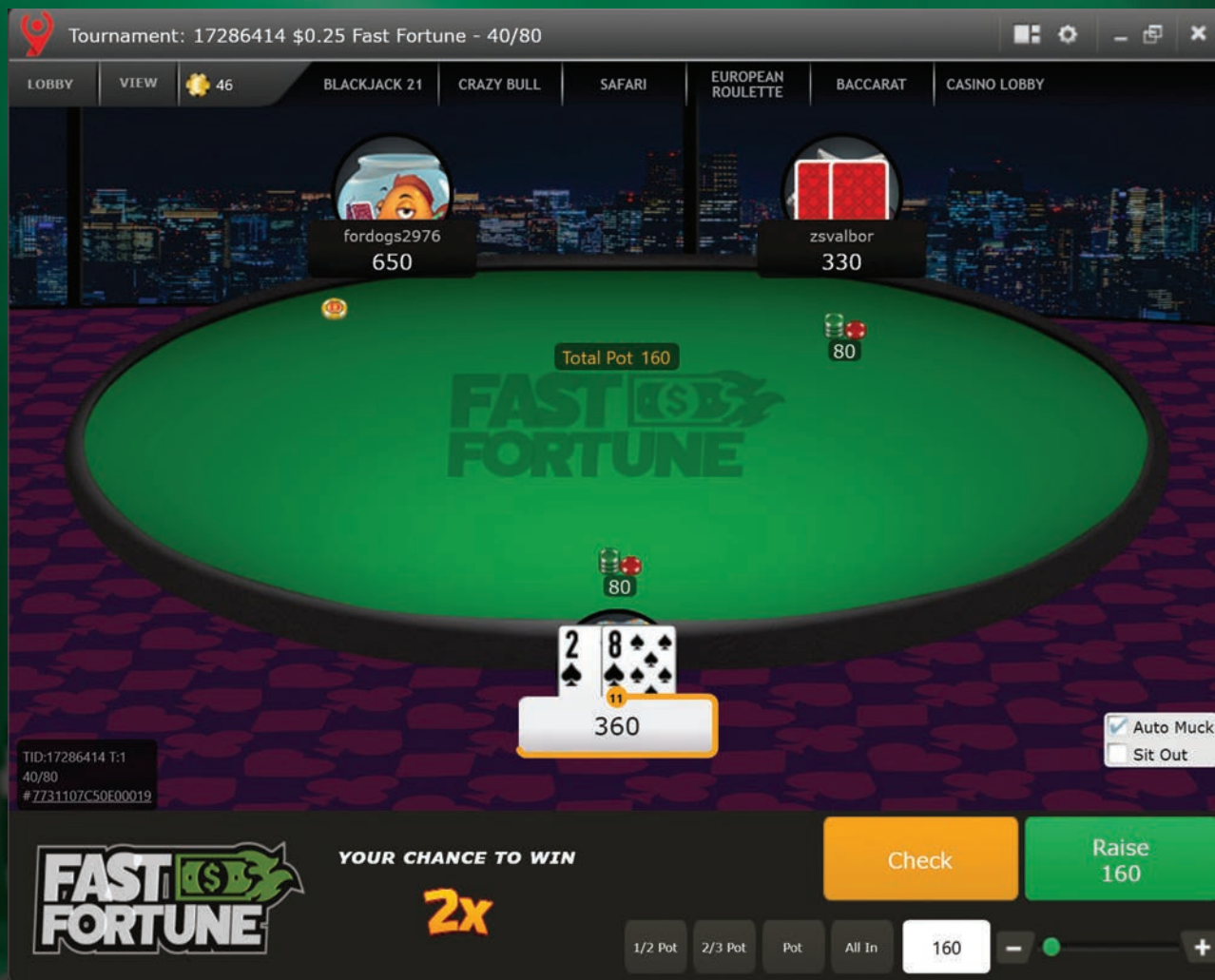


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SCHEDULES

	Nov. 6-16	Fall Poker Round Up	Wildhorse Resort & Casino ■ Pendleton, OR
	Nov. 10-23	Trailblazer Poker Tour	Texas Card House ■ Spring, TX
	Nov. 12-25	WSOP Circuit - Los Angeles	Commerce Casino ■ Commerce, CA
	Nov. 14-24	Texas PLO Roundup	Champions Club Texas ■ Houston, TX
	Nov. 18-23	Major Series of Poker Tour - Chicago	Ameristar Casino & Hotel ■ East Chicago, IN
	Nov. 19-Dec. 3	WPT Rock 'n' Roll Poker Open	Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Hollywood, FL
	Nov. 27-Dec. 8	WSOP Circuit - North Carolina	Harrah's ■ Cherokee, NC
	Nov. 28-Dec. 3	RunGood Dream Factory	Thunder Valley Casino & Resort ■ Lincoln, CA
DECEMBER	Dec. 2-22	WPT World Championship Festival	Wynn ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Dec. 3-14	European Poker Tour	Hilton Hotel ■ Prague, Czech Republic
	Dec. 4-18	World Series of Poker Paradies	Atlantis Resort & Casino ■ Paradise Island, Bahamas
	Dec. 26-Jan. 6	Trailblazer Poker Tour	Texas Card House - Rio Grande Valley ■ Edinburg, TX
JANUARY	Jan. 7-20	Lucky Hearts Poker Open	Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Hollywood, FL
	Jan. 14-Feb. 2	Trailblazer Poker Tour	Texas Card House ■ Houston, TX
	Jan. 29-Feb. 1	Diamond Poker Championship	Talking Stick Resort ■ Scottsdale, AZ

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

Air - A bad hand with little to no value.

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

Backdoor - A draw needing two streets to complete.

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

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

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

Blocker - Holding one of your opponent's outs.

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

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

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

Broadway - A straight to the ace.

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

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

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

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

Chop - A split of the pot.

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

Collusion - Working with another player to cheat.

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

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

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

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

Drawing Dead - When your hand can no longer win.

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

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

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

Equity - The mathematical expected value of your hand.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gutshot - An inside straight draw.

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

Hollywood - Exaggerating and overacting to sell strength or weakness.

Horse - A player financially backed by someone else.

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

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

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

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

LAG - A loose, aggressive player.

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

Muck - To fold.

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

Nuts - The best possible hand on a given board.

Open - To bet first.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rainbow - Three or four cards of different suits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TAG - A tight, aggressive player.

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

Tilt - Frustration or anger that leads to poor play.

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

VPIP - The percentage of hands voluntarily played preflop.

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

Wheel - A five-high straight.



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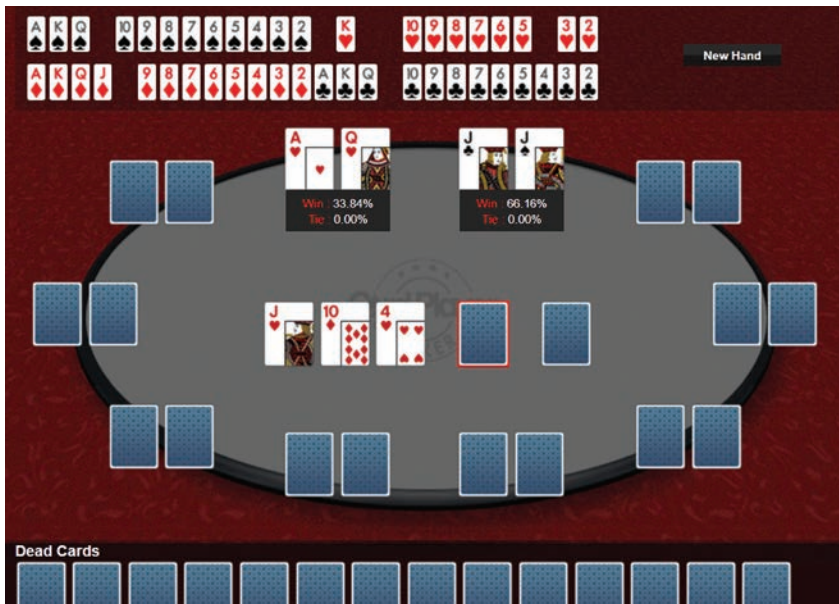
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CALCULATING OUTS

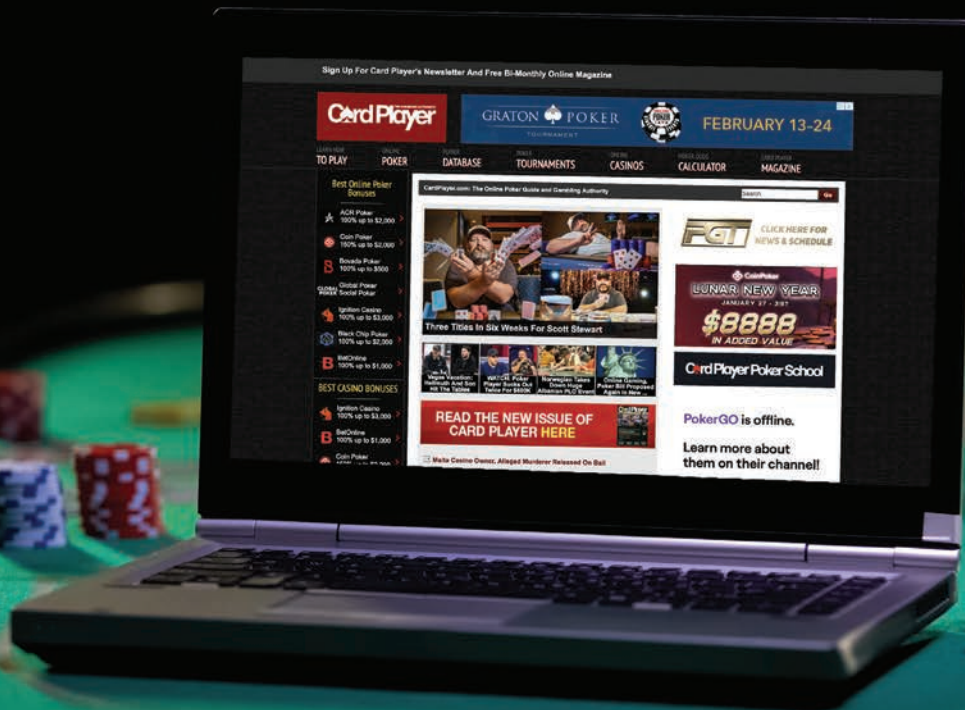
Outs	Situation	After The Flop	After The Turn
21	Straight And Flush Draw, With Two Overcards	70%	45%
20		68%	43%
19		65%	41%
18	Straight And Flush Draw, With One Overcard	62%	39%
17		60%	37%
16		57%	35%
15	Straight And Flush Draw	54%	33%
14		51%	30%
13		48%	28%
12	Flush Draw With One Overcard, Or With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

HAND MATCHUPS

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

*Approximate Percentages

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You are eight-handed in a \$1,000 buy-in live tournament, sitting with a stack of 124,000 at 500-1,000. The lojack, a somewhat tight, straightforward player, raises to 2,500, and the button calls. You are in the big blind with 10♣ 10♠.

QUESTION 1: Should you fold, call, reraise to 8,000, or reraise to 12,000?

ANSWER: Call. Three-betting to 12,000 would be the best play if the lojack was a normal or loose player, but since they are tight, you should likely tighten up a bit and just call. If you were to face a four-bet, you would have to either fold or put in a lot of chips from out of position with a hand that could easily be crushed. Instead, simply call and see what the flop brings.

You call and the flop comes 10♥ 5♠ 4♠. You all check, and the turn is the 3♣.

QUESTION 2: Should you check, bet 3,000, bet 7,000, or bet 14,000?_

ANSWER: Bet 7,000. When the flop checks through, it is safe to assume both your opponents do not love their hands. So, in order to ensure you get money in the pot, you need to bet.

While it may be tempting to make a gigantic bet to force as much into the pot as possible, since your opponents' ranges are both marginal, you should bet smaller in order to get calls from weak pairs and ace-highs.

You bet 7,000 and only the lojack calls. The river is the 2♦.

QUESTION 3: Should you check, bet 7,000, bet 21,000, or bet 42,000?

ANSWER: Check. Any deuce is a terrible river for you because much of your opponent's calling range contains an ace. So, you have two viable options, which are checking or betting small.

If you check and your opponent bets, you will be in a tough spot because most straightforward players will not value bet many worse hands than yours. That said, if you fold a set, you are folding one of the best hands in your range. That would not be a good play against someone who is inclined to bluff, but it is best against a tight, straightforward player.

If you bet small, you could somewhat reasonably get called by a worse hand while being able to easily fold if you get raised. As you expect your opponent to call a small river bet with lots of worse hands, that becomes the preferred play.

You bet 7,000 and your opponent calls. You show your set and win the pot. ♠



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