

Media Guide

World Series of Poker Main Event Final Table

October 29-30, 2012

Penn & Teller Theater
Rio® All-Suite Hotel & Casino

2012 Main Event Final Table Media Guide Documents:

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Important Notes for Media Covering WSOP Main Event Final Table

- Credentials can be picked-up on **Monday, October 29 from 2:30-4:30 PM ONLY**. Pick-up location is in front of Penn & Teller Theater, next to Starbucks. (same as in past year's)
- All seating for media has been allocated. If you have requested credentials, but cannot make it, please contact Seth Palansky at spalansky@caesars.com and let this be known so we can assign your seat to someone on the media waiting list.
- Media availability for the final three players will be held **Tuesday, October 30 from 3-3:30 PM** in the Penn & Teller Theater Lobby at the Rio hotel. All media are welcome, please wear credential.
- The Poker Hall of Fame Inductions will occur **Tuesday at 3:30 pm**, immediately following the Final Three presser in the Penn & Teller Theater lobby.
- All bust-out interviews will take place in the Lobby of the Penn & Teller Theater and are open to all media, who should make their own way to this area following each bust-out.
- Video is permitted to be shot of bust-out interviews.
- Video crews will need a staff escort to shoot video inside Penn & Teller Theater. Video will be limited to 5 minutes of b-roll per day. This footage may not include hand-for-hand play.
- No flash photography is allowed on the stage where the final table is being contested.
- Limited flash photography will be allowed when shooting the crowds/audience.
- Still photographers should bring appropriate lenses to shoot from long distances.
- Access to the stage where the final table is being contested is reserved only for those credential-holders granted access in advance. Anyone found on the stage with a credential not authorizing stage access, will have his or her credential revoked.
- With the event now being carried live on ESPN2 (Monday) and ESPN (Tuesday) (on a 15-minute delay), media will now be permitted to post in concert with the material being public, thus eliminating the typical one post per hour rule.
- ESPN3 will stream both Monday and Tuesday's coverage, with hole-cards on a 15-minute delay. Any outlets found re-streaming or shooting any table play video will lose access rights to future WSOP events.
- Any matters requiring special attention, please contact Seth Palansky (spalansky@caesars.com) or Dave Curley (dcurley@hillmanpr.com)



2012 World Series of Poker Information



2012 WORLD SERIES OF POKER



**CURRENT AS OF
OCTOBER 9, 2012**

**EVENT #61
NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM MAIN EVENT
OCTOBER 29-30, 2012
RIO HOTEL AND CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NV**

PLAYER TO WIN THE FINAL TABLE

| BET # | PLAYER | OPENING LINE | CURRENT LINE | CHIP COUNT |
|-------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 6641 | RUSSELL THOMAS (USA) | 4/1 | 4/1 | 24,800,000 |
| 6642 | JAKE BALSIGER (USA) | 8/1 | 8/1 | 13,115,000 |
| 6643 | JEREMY AUSMUS (USA) | 11/1 | 11/1 | 9,805,000 |
| 6644 | STEVE GEE (USA) | 6/1 | 6/1 | 16,860,000 |
| 6645 | GREG MERSON (USA) | 5/2 | 5/2 | 28,725,000 |
| 6646 | JESSE SYLVIA (USA) | 3/2 | 3/2 | 43,875,000 |
| 6647 | ROBERT SALABURU (USA) | 7/1 | 7/1 | 15,155,000 |
| 6648 | ANDRAS KOROKNAI (HUNGARY) | 3/1 | 3/1 | 29,375,000 |
| 6649 | MICHAEL ESPOSITO (USA) | 6/1 | 6/1 | 16,260,000 |

**IF PLAYER DOES NOT PLAY FOR ANY REASON,
WAGER IS NOT REFUNDED.**

**WAGERING CLOSES 4:30 PM
MONDAY OCTOBER 29, 2012**

**FINAL RESULTS POSTED
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2012**

ALL BETS ARE ACTION

ODDS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLEASE CHECK ALL TICKETS FOR ACCURACY



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - WSOP MAIN EVENT FINAL TABLE

Penn & Teller Theatre, Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Monday, October 29, 2012 – Play down from 9 to 3 players

- 1:00 PM – Spectator line forms for general admission first come, first serve seating (seating is free; seating is subject to availability after players' family and friends are accommodated)
- **2:30 PM – Media Credentialing Pick-Up Begins – Outside Penn & Teller Theater – next to Starbucks**
- 3:00 PM – Friends and Family seating begins; friends and family must be in their seats by 3:45 or their ticketed seats will be put back in general admission pool.
- 3:30 PM – October Nine Players Meeting with Tournament Organizers – Mandatory
- 3:45 PM – General admission seating opens
- 3:50 PM – Player Introductions to crowd in Penn & Teller Theater
- **4:30 PM – Media Credential Pick-Up Ends.**
- 4:37 PM – ESPN Player introductions on stage (via video, players to enter seats from tunnel)
- 4:45 PM – Tournament Director final instructions & Shuffle Up and Deal. (Complete Level 34: 150k-300k w/40k ante (1 hour, 9 minutes, 45 seconds remaining) (Live on ESPN2 at 8 PM ET)
- 4:47 PM – Cards in the air, first hand dealt.
- 6:07 PM – Remaining players take 15-minute break (race-off 5,000 chips)
- 6:22 PM – Play resumes with Level 35: 200k-400k w/50k ante
- 8:22 PM – Remaining players take 10-minute break
- 8:32 PM – Play resumes with Level 36: 250k-500k w/50k ante
- 10:32 PM – Remaining players take a 10-minute break
- 10:42 PM -- Play resumes for remaining players with Level 37: 300k-600k w/75k ante
- 12:42 AM – Remaining players take a 10-minute break
- *12:52 AM – Play resumes for remaining players with Level 38: 400k-800k w/100k ante

*If necessary. Play ends for the day when only 3 players remain.

- *2:52 AM – Remaining players take 10-minute break; Scheduled color-up 25K chips
- *3:02 AM – Play resumes with Level 39: 500k-1MM w/150k ante
- *5:02 AM – Remaining players take 15-minute break (Color-up 25k chips)
- *5:17 AM – Play resumes with Level 40: 600k-1.2MM w/200k ante
- *7:17 AM – Remaining players take 10-minute break
- *7:27 AM – Play resumes with Level 41: 800k-1.6MM w/200k ante

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 – No Table Play

- ***3:00 PM – Media Availability with final 3 players; Penn & Teller Theater Lobby – All Media Welcome, Please wear credential.***
- ***3:30 PM – Poker Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies – Eric Drache & Brian “Sailor” Roberts; Penn & Teller Theater Lobby – All Media Welcome, Please wear credential. (Same area as player media availability) Bobby Baldwin & Crandell Addington to serve as presenters.***
- 4:00 PM – Friends and Family seating begins; friends and family must be in their seats by 4:45 or their ticketed seats will be put back in general admission pool
- 4:45 PM – Player Meeting
- 5:00 PM – General Admission Seating begins
- 5:15 PM – ESPN Player Introductions
- 5:35 PM – Player introductions and instructions
- 5:45 PM – Shuffle Up and Deal; pick up where play ended on Monday, play continues until there is a winner. 10-minute breaks at the end of each level. (Live on ESPN at 9 PM ET)
- 5:48 PM – Cards in the air. Pick up where play ended on Monday, play continues until there is a winner. Breaks at the end of each level. Break times 10 minutes.
- *During Final Hand of Play:* Media may not rush the stage, but will be permitted to move to front of orchestra section to view and capture reaction – but not final hand. Note: Confetti, etc., will be utilized as part of show.
- 30-minutes following the end of play: Interviews with winner and runner-up in Lobby.
- 90 minutes following end of play – Media must clear Penn & Teller theatre, per the striking of the equipment that must take place. Please plan accordingly in advance.

#

2012 World Series of Poker Main Event Final Table Fact Sheet

WHO:

| Seat # | Player Name | Age | Town | Chip Count |
|--------|------------------|-----|-----------------------|------------|
| 1 | Russell Thomas | 24 | Hartford, CT., USA | 24,800,000 |
| 2 | Jake Balsiger | 21 | Tempe, AZ., USA | 13,115,000 |
| 3 | Jeremy Ausmus | 33 | Las Vegas, NV., USA | 9,805,000 |
| 4 | Steve Gee | 57 | Sacramento, CA., USA | 16,860,000 |
| 5 | Greg Merson | 24 | Laurel, MD., USA | 28,725,000 |
| 6 | Jesse Sylvia | 26 | Las Vegas, NV., USA | 43,875,000 |
| 7 | Robert Salaburu | 27 | San Antonio, TX., USA | 15,155,000 |
| 8 | Andras Koroknai | 30 | Debrecen, Hungary | 29,375,000 |
| 9 | Michael Esposito | 44 | Seaford, NY., USA | 16,260,000 |

WHAT: The conclusion of poker's richest and most prestigious poker tournament, the 43rd annual *World Series of Poker Presented by Jack Link's Beef Jerky*. Featuring the October Nine – the final nine players of 6,598 participants in the \$10,000 No-Limit Texas Hold'em World Championship. These nine players are vying for the most coveted prize in poker – the WSOP Championship Bracelet and the winner's prize of \$8,531,853.

WHERE: The Penn & Teller Theater at the Rio® All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

WHEN: Monday, October 29th and Tuesday, October 30th on ESPN, ESPN2 & ESPN3
Play on the 29th will begin with all nine participants. On October 30, the final three players face off.

ESPN2 will carry live coverage of the final table on Monday, October 29th at 8:00 PM ET/5:00 PM PT. Coverage continues until 3 players remain.

ESPN will carry coverage of the final table on Tuesday, October 30th at 9:00 PM ET/6:00 PM PT.

PRIZE The final nine will play for a total of \$27,258,025 (43.9% of prize pool). The payout schedule is as follows:

POOL:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1st Place: \$8,531,853 | 4th Place: \$2,851,537 | 7th Place: \$1,258,040 |
| 2nd Place: \$5,295,249 | 5th Place: \$2,155,313 | 8th Place: \$971,360 |
| 3rd Place: \$3,799,073 | 6th Place: \$1,640,902 | 9th Place: \$754,798 |

The Main Event total prize pool in 2012 is \$62,031,385. A total of 666 players cashed in the event; payout for 666th place was \$19,227.

UPON RETURN: The event resumes with 1 hour, 9 minutes, 45 seconds left in Level 34, with antes 40,000 and blinds at 150,000 and 300,000. Koroknai has the button. The small blind will be in Seat 9 with Esposito and Thomas will be the big blind in Seat 1.

2012 WSOP: The 2012 World Series of Poker attracted 74,766 entrants from 101 different nations competing for \$222,045,377 million prize pool over the 61-event, 51-day extravaganza.



ESPN TV SCHEDULE FOR 2012 WSOP FINAL TABLE

ESPN's coverage of the 43rd Annual World Series of Poker Presented by Jack Links Beef Jerky from the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas concludes with two special live telecasts, one on Monday, October 29 beginning at 8:00 PM ET and the finale on Tuesday, October 30 at 9:00 PM ET.

The coverage on Monday will air on ESPN2 with a simulcast stream on ESPN3. It will be carried live beginning at 8:00 PM ET and continue until three players remain.

Tuesday's coverage airs on ESPN starting at 9:00 PM ET and simulcast streams on ESPN3. Coverage will air uninterrupted until we have a new champion.

All the coverage will be on a 15-minute delay and will feature hole cards, following the conclusion of the hand.

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Monday, October 29 | ESPN2/ESPN3 | 8:00 pm ET (live) | 9 players to 3 |
| Tuesday, October 30 | ESPN/ESPN3 | 9:00 pm ET (live) | Until winner |

*TV Schedule Subject To Change

The on-air talent for the event features the following:

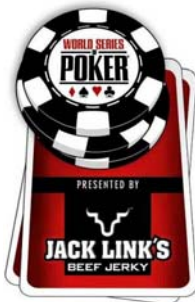
Lon McEachern
Norman Chad
Antonio Esfandiari
Kara Scott

The two executives in charge of poker coverage on ESPN are Doug White, the Senior Director of Programming and Acquisitions and Jamie Horowitz, the Coordinating Producer.

Production of the final table and all of the 2012 World Series of Poker television coverage is produced by Poker Productions, headed by Mori Eskandani and Dan Gati.

For all ESPN media inquiries and interview requests, please contact **Allie Stoneberg** in the ESPN Communications department.

###



**Final Table Event #61: Main Event
\$10,000 No Limit Hold'em World Championship
43rd Annual World Series of Poker**

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 43rd Annual WSOP Main Event | | |
| Seat 4: STEVE GEE Sacramento, CA. USA 16,860,000 | Seat 5: GREG MERSON Laurel, MD. USA 28,725,000 | Seat 6: JESSE SYLVIA Martha's Vineyard, MA. USA 43,875,000 |
| Seat 3: JEREMY AUSMUS Las Vegas, NV. USA 9,805,000 | | Seat 7: ROBERT SALABURU San Antonio, TX. USA 15,155,000 |
| Seat 2: JAKE BALSIGER Tempe, AZ. USA 13,115,000 | Dealer | Seat 8: ANDRAS KOROKNAI Debrecen, Hungary 29,375,000 |
| Seat 1: RUSSELL THOMAS Hartford, CT. USA 24,800,000 | Seat 9: MICHAEL ESPOSITO Seaford, NY. USA 16,260,000 | |

Payouts

1. \$8,531,853
2. \$5,295,149
3. \$3,799,073
4. \$2,851,537
5. \$2,155,313
6. \$1,640,902
7. \$1,258,040
8. \$971,360
9. \$754,798

Final Table Prize Pool: \$27,258,025 (43.9% of total prize pool)

Total Prize Pool: \$62,031,385



WHERE WE ARE...AND WHERE WE LEFT OFF

CURRENT BLINDS/STRUCTURES, ETC.

The 2012 World Series of Poker \$10,000 World Championship No Limit Hold'em (Main Event) reached nine players in the early morning of Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 12:36 a.m. when **Gaelle Baumann** went all-in pre-flop and **Andras Koroknai** made the call from the small blind. Baumann held Ace of Diamonds and Nine of Hearts, with Koroknai holding Ace of Hearts and Jack of Spades. A 3-Q-Q flop, followed by an 8 and a King changed nothing and Baumann was eliminated.

Baumann finished in 10th place, the highest finish for a female in the Main Event since 2000 and earned a nice \$590,422 payday.

After a 102-day break, here we are with the October Nine vying for the remaining prize pool of \$27,258,025 with first place set to collect \$8,531,853. Each player was paid 9th place prize money on July 17 (\$754,798), therefore only the top eight finishers will collect more prize money.

When play resumes on **Monday, October 29 at 4:45 PM PT**, here is where it will pick up:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Level: | 34 |
| Blinds: | 150,000-300,000 |
| Antes: | 40,000 |
| Time left in level 36: | 1 hour, 9 minutes, 45 seconds |
| Button: | Andras Koroknai |
| Big Blind: | Russell Thomas |
| Small Blind: | Michael Esposito |

Seat assignments/starting chip counts:

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Russell Thomas | 24,800,000 |
| 2 | Jake Balsiger | 13,115,000 |
| 3 | Jeremy Ausmus | 9,805,000 |
| 4 | Steve Gee | 16,860,000 |
| 5 | Greg Merson | 28,725,000 |
| 6 | Jesse Sylvia | 43,875,000 |
| 7 | Robert Salaburu | 15,155,000 |
| 8 | Andras Koroknai | 29,375,000 |
| 9 | Michael Esposito | 16,260,000 |

Level 35 will feature blinds at 200,000-400,000 with a 40,000 ante.

Chip Denominations: There are currently four different chip denominations in use: 5,000, 25,000, 100,000 and 250,000. A 500,000 chip is also expected to be used during the final table.

Levels are 2 hours in length. Play will continue until we reach three players. Play commences on **Tuesday, October 30 at 5:45 p.m.** and plays to a winner.

www.WSOP.com

A group of nine men are leaning over a large, semi-circular poker table with a blue felt top. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a dark blue wall with various logos, including WSOP.com, ESPN, and EA. The men are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, button-down shirts, and a plaid shirt. The table has a red and white striped border. The overall atmosphere is celebratory and professional.

Meet the October Nine

MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

RUSSELL THOMAS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Russell Thomas |
| Age: | 24 |
| Hometown: | Hartford, Connecticut (Grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) |
| Chip Count: | 24,800,000 (4 th overall) (12.5% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 1 |
| Occupation: | Actuary for Aetna Insurance (working on ObamaCare/healthcare reform issues) |
| Twitter Handle: | @rungoodrussell |
| College: | Temple University; Degree in Actuarial Science |
| Marital Status: | Single (Girlfriend) |
| Children: | None |
| Poker Experience: | 4 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$126,796 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 3 (1 in 2011; 2 in 2010) |
| Best Previous WSOP Finish: | 5 th place – 2010 WSOP, Event #16 – Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em |
| Main Event Results: | 1 previous cash (2011: 248 th place for \$40,654) |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 3 Events Cashed: 1 |
| Worth Noting: | One of only two players at this final table that doesn't make a full-time living playing poker (Esposito). Hired noted poker pro Jason Somerville to coach him during break in play. |

Thomas was interviewed the day after reaching the final table (July 17). Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: How did you get started playing poker?

THOMAS: I started playing poker in college during my sophomore year and I have been playing ever since. I played the Main Event last year and got like 252nd (actually 248th) and played again this year and now I am at the final table (laughs).

WSOP: How many years have you been playing poker?

THOMAS: I guess it is maybe four or five years now.

WSOP: In terms of your family and their support for you, what does it mean for you to have them backing you and at the October Nine?

THOMAS: Yeah, my family was out here for Day 6 and Day 7. My Mom actually flew out just yesterday. It is really awesome having them here.

WSOP: What got you interested in poker?

THOMAS: Well, my brother was a poker player so I got to see him play. I always liked playing games, and it just came and seemed natural to me.

WSOP: What made you decide to play the Main Event this year? Did you play any other events?

THOMAS: I played a \$1,500 event and a \$1,000 event this year. I made it really far on Day One both days, but I lost. The structure is really great [for the Main Event] and that is why I like it. You know its not just one hand or just shoving in the third level. It is a great structure and a great tournament.

WSOP: What is your daily life away from poker? What do you do at work and for fun?

THOMAS: I work on healthcare reform-type work for Aetna. You know, ObamaCare. There are some regulations mandating insurance companies to pay back all of their members if we don't pay enough out for medical claims for how much premiums we take in, so I forecast the amount for Aetna on a monthly basis. So I am going to have to train someone on how to do that! (laughs) For fun, I like to play basketball. I am interested in economics, politics, religion, poker; I don't know all sorts of stuff.

WSOP: Is poker just for fun? I mean obviously you are quite proficient at it, but is it a hobby or are you a semi pro?

THOMAS: I could have gone pro after college but I had a good career lined up. Poker does not give me any structure in my life. I don't want to wake up at noon everyday. I need structure in my life where I feel it.

WSOP: Will you continue your normal professional life depending on what happens in October?

THOMAS: I am going to take a leave of absence for sure until October. If I got out in ninth place I would definitely go back to my job, because I don't think \$750,000 is enough and because I don't have a 100 percent of myself anyways. But If I got third or something I would quit for sure and just play poker.

WSOP: While you were playing the Main Event, what was your moment where you thought I am going to make the October Nine? Is there a specific moment or were you confident the entire time?

THOMAS: I was pretty confident, because I had a stack of over 20 million and I looked at the chip counts and there were a few short stacks on the other table and I realized that there were only 12 or 13 players left and I had a pretty good shot at making it. So, yeah I mean I have been top four in chips for all of Day 7 and I felt like I could make it.

WSOP: Was there any hand that stands out from your tournament?

THOMAS: Well, I got it all in with jack-eight suited against Greg over there. He had ace-king and I won that hand. So, if I did not win that hand, I was gone in like 40th place. That was a huge hand.

WSOP: Do you think your career as an actuary helps your game or improves your game or has any effect on the way you play?

THOMAS: Well, to be an actuary you have to pass a bunch of exams. One of them was called probability. So I have studied probability pretty intensively. The math helps, but it doesn't correlate as much as people think. Playing poker makes you better at poker.

WSOP: While you have some time off, are you going to play poker? You said you are taking a leave of absence. What do you plan on doing until October?

THOMAS: I am going to be playing poker, I am not really a tournament player I am a cash game player. I just played the Main Event and the \$1,000 and \$1,500 events. I am going to learn a lot about tournament poker in the next few months, play it right.

WSOP: You played with Elisabeth Hille and Gaelle Baumann. They put on a heck of a performance. What is your take on the state of women in poker and specifically the performance that they put on?

THOMAS: There were a lot of women in the field and I played with a lot of them throughout the days. I played more with Elisabeth than Gaelle and Liz played really awesome. I don't know if she had hands in a bunch of spots or if she was just bluffing. She is pretty amazing and she was owning Greg, which is not easy to do since he is probably one of the best players in the world. It looks like more women are playing and are getting a lot better. I am really surprised that one of them did not make it.

WSOP: Other than making the October Nine, what is your greatest accomplishment?

THOMAS: In poker, I took fifth in a \$1,500 event right after college, so that was definitely my biggest poker accomplishment at that point. I don't know. Becoming an Actuary and passing all of my exams would be more work than anything I have done in poker so far. I had to study three months straight for a set of exams so I mean that has been a pretty big accomplishment.

WSOP: You are an actuary and know probability and that no matter how good you are, it's tough to get here, so what were your expectations when you registered for the Main Event?

THOMAS: Well I gave my girlfriend probabilities. She came in on Wednesday. I am like there is a 50 percent chance I will be playing on Wednesday and a 20 percent chance on Thursday than a five percent chance and then a one percent chance on Saturday or something like that. I guess those probabilities didn't really mean anything.

#

MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

JAKE BALSIGER

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name: | Jake Balsiger |
| Age: | 21 |
| Hometown: | Tempe, Arizona (Born in Portland, Oregon) |
| Chip Count: | 13,115,000 (8 th overall) (6.6% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 2 |
| Occupation: | Senior, ASU, studying Political Science |
| College: | Arizona State University |
| Twitter Handle: | @pzerotm |
| Marital Status: | Single |
| Children: | None |
| Poker Experience: | 3 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$3,531 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 1 (1 in 2012) |
| Best Previous WSOP Finish: | 100 th place – 2012 WSOP, Event #2, \$1500 No-Limit Hold'em |
| Main Event Results: | None (1 st year eligible to play) |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 4 Events Cashed: 2 |
| Worth Noting: | Has chance to become youngest champion in history at 21 years old, 281 days. That would best Joe Cada's 21 years, 356 days. |

Balsiger was interviewed tableside just minutes after reaching the final table (July 16). Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: Jake, you just made the final table of the Main Event. You have the biggest smile on your face right now. You look like the happiest guy in the room. How do you feel right now?

BALSIGER: It feels amazing. Best I've ever felt in my life. It's like the highest high there is.

WSOP: Your poker tournament resume consists of a couple of cashes in minor tournaments. How do you go from that to final tabling the biggest tournament in the world?

BALSIGER: I don't know to be honest. I entered the Main Event expecting to hopefully get some kind of cash. I end up at the final table. Unbelievable.

WSOP: Was there a point during the Main Event where you thought, "Hey I have a good chance of going really deep in this thing?"

BALSIGER: On Day 3 I had King-Jack in the big blind against pocket three's in the button. The flop came King-Ten-3. I'm all in and he turns over the set. I hit running jacks on the turn and river and get a huge double up. That was the turning point for me.

WSOP: When did you decide that you wanted play in the Main Event?

BALSIGER: I've wanted to play since I was 13 years old, watching it on TV. This is my first one and it's totally surreal.

WSOP: When did you start playing poker seriously?

BALSIGER: When I was 18. I wasn't any good. I wouldn't say I was any good until this year. I've made a couple of minimum cashes.

WSOP: You're going to be a senior at Arizona State. How is this going to affect your college life?

BALSIGER: I won't have to worry about money for a long time I would say, hopefully for the rest of my life. I guess I can do whatever I want. This is pretty nice. (laughs as it dawns on him the reality and how that sounds)

WSOP: Is this what you want to do for a living, or do you just want to bank the money and do something else?

BALSIGER: I want to play poker for a living, but once I'm gone from this tournament, I don't want to give it up for an office job.

WSOP: Going back to your hotel room at the end of every night of the tournament, what thoughts went through your head the first couple of days, and what were those thoughts after you realized that you could make a real impact in this event?

BALSIGER: The first two days, I was pretty relaxed, I just thought about hands and just playing in general. I had an above-average stack after Day 3. After then, I realized I had a real shot at it and thought about making the final table.

WSOP: Describe your poker experience.

BALSIGER: I started out grinding low stakes online, eeking out a very meager living, but I was happy to not have a real job. Then when I started playing live, which I really liked because I could take as long as I wanted and other things which suited me a lot better.

WSOP: Are you going to hire a coach or anything?

BALSIGER: Yeah, probably

WSOP: Do you have anybody in mind?

BALSIGER: Yeah, Timex – Mike McDonald

WSOP: You have a few months to go home, what are you going to do in your down time?

BALSIGER: I'm going to take a couple of weeks off to relax and the month before I'm going to play non-stop, get my head in it, learn about the other players. There's \$7 million more to be had so I'm going to be putting in a lot of effort.

WSOP: What words describe how you feel right now?

BALSIGER: The only way I can describe it is that it's like a dream. I don't feel like it's really happening. I feel like I'm going to wake up tomorrow and... you know it's just hard to believe that I'm standing here as one of the [October] Nine.

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MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

JEREMY AUSMUS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Jeremy Ausmus |
| Age: | 33 |
| Hometown: | Las Vegas, Nevada (been since 2005) (Born in Lamar, Colorado) |
| Chip Count: | 9,805,000 (9 th overall) (5% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 3 |
| Occupation: | Professional Poker Player |
| College: | Colorado State University, Bachelor's Degree |
| Twitter Handle: | @jeremyausmus |
| Marital Status: | Married, wife Adria (Married in 2009) |
| Children: | 2 (23-month old daughter & one-month old son) |
| Poker Experience: | 8 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$114,623 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 13 (8 in 2012) |
| Best Previous WSOP Finish: | 9 th place – 2011 WSOP, Event #5, \$1500 Seven Card Stud |
| Main Event Results: | None previous |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 29 Events Cashed: 9 |
| Worth Noting: | Wife gave birth to 5-week premature baby in late September. Was due to be born during final table dates. His nine cashes at 2012 WSOP was tied for fourth-most of any player. |

Ausmus was interviewed the day following reaching the final table (July 17). Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: How long have you been a poker pro?

AUSMUS: Since I moved to Las Vegas in 2005 and done it full time. That's been my only source of income since 2004.

WSOP: What did you do before that?

AUSMUS: I was in college. I worked at a cabinet shop. Woodworking. I did that through high school too.

WSOP: Do you ever want to get back into that some day?

AUSMUS: Sort of. My wife would like me to, so I can make all the stuff around the house.

WSOP: Do you travel much to play poker or do you stay mainly in Las Vegas?

AUSMUS: With a family and stuff, I don't do a lot of traveling, I just play cash games at the Bellagio. I used to be mainly an online player. And since Black Friday, I just play live cash. I travel rarely for tournaments. The WSOP, I go all out, though. I go to Los Angeles for the LAPC.

WSOP: You must feel like you're in a good place if you've cashed nine times this summer. Do you feel like you're just playing well? Running well?

AUSMUS: Probably both. It's not like the best player in the world cashes nine times a year. And it's not like just anyone can cash nine times either. So, I think it's both. I'm playing well, and I've ran well.

WSOP: What was the Main Event like for you? Were there any times that you were worried that you weren't going to make it?

AUSMUS: Yes, I was low a few of the days. I was down to 20-30 big blinds several times on several days. But I just stayed positive and looked for opportunities to get it in. I set-over-set three people during this tournament. Then on the last hand of Day 4, I got all-in on the turn with queens, and the guy had a set of eights. I rivered a queen. So, if you count that one, I set-over-set people four times, which is ridiculous.

WSOP: How did you start playing poker in the first place?

AUSMUS: Just in college. It's funny. I watched Rounders, and I was wondering -- cause I've always been into games, video games, chess, just strategy, thinking games and poker -- and I watched the movie and was wondering if you could really make a living with poker. I didn't know if it was all luck or skill. So, I went and bought a book. I watched the movie like five times in a week, me and my roommate. Then I went and bought a book from Barnes & Noble, and it said, "Yeah, you can make a living playing poker." So, I was really intrigued and bought more books about, like, how to play poker for a living basically. And then, you know, it was blowing up then, and I met some people that liked to play, and then I got into some games around town. Then I went to travel to Black Hawk (casino in Colorado where he was living) on the weekends. And it just escalated more and more into playing a lot, winning and improving.

WSOP: Did you have success in poker right away? Was it something that just came naturally?

AUSMUS: Yes. I started doing well right away. Not online. But I could beat the games around town then.

WSOP: The poker pro story is usually not the family man. Being a family man is kind of a minority, right?

AUSMUS: Yeah, it definitely is. I think it's kind of good, though. I have good balance. A lot of these kids, they live, breathe and eat poker, so they get really good at poker. It takes them to the top. But, just to get away from that sometimes. And, you know, my wife gives me a life away from poker and my daughter too. It's good to have that break. And I still have poker friends. I mean, I've worked with them over the years to get where I'm at. But yes, I'm in the minority, being a family man in poker.

WSOP: You now have ninth place money, are you going splurge on anything?

AUSMUS: Probably not. I might pay off my house, maybe. Some responsible stuff like that. I probably won't go and buy a nice watch. So many poker players have nice watches. I've gone back-and-forth over the past few years on that one. I'm like, "I kind of want a nice watch. And kind of not." I'm not a nice watch kind of guy. So, no, probably not. I'll probably just add it to my bankroll. I'm going pay down some debt. We've been talking about doing some remodeling on the house.

WSOP: You can get that cabinetry after all.

AUSMUS: Yes.

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MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

STEVE GEE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Steve Gee |
| Age: | 57 (Oldest player remaining) |
| Hometown: | Sacramento, California (Born in China) |
| Chip Count: | 16,860,000 (5 th overall) (8.5% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 4 |
| Occupation: | Professional Poker Player (Formerly a Manager of Software Projects for CalPERS (the California Public Employees Retirement System)) |
| College: | California State University at Sacramento, Degree in Business Administration, concentration in Accounting |
| Marital Status: | Divorced |
| Children: | 1: Daughter Tiffany (recent graduate UC Berkley, now applying to medical school) |
| Poker Experience: | 45 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$480,822 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 4 (Won a WSOP Gold Bracelet in 2010) |
| Best Previous WSOP Finish: | 1 st place – 2010 WSOP, Event #13, \$1000 No-Limit Hold'em |
| Main Event Results: | None (Has played it four times, this is first ever cash) |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 5 Events Cashed: 0 |
| Worth Noting: | Gee is one of only two players at this final table with a WSOP gold bracelet (Merson) Gee can become the oldest person to win the WSOP Main Event since Noel Furlong (62) in 1999. Gee can become the second Chinese-born winner of the WSOP Main Event and first since Johnny Chan in 1988. |

Gee was interviewed the day after reaching the final table. Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: Can you tell me about your background?

GEE: I'm from Sacramento, California but originally from China. I was a professional poker player in the 1970's, back when I was in my 20's playing draw lowball. At 22, I was playing the biggest games around. At that time, I was the only young guy at the table. Poker was not popular back in those days like it is today. Being a poker player was a lot like being a pool hustler. We played at the Oaks card club, 60/120

limit. I was the only 20-something year-old there. There were some guys in their 30's, some in their 40's. Everybody else was in their 50's. But the world's changed now. Look at a poker room in a casino today and the whole lineup is in their 20's. I went back and got my college degree, got married, worked a corporate job, you know 8 to 5. Then, in 2008 I quit my job to play poker full time. Poker was so popular at the time, I wanted to win a WSOP bracelet and I wanted to do it now. I didn't want to wait until I was 70.

WSOP: Do you have any other hobbies or interests?

GEE: I enjoy playing poker but my favorite pastime is tennis. I'm an avid tennis player. I actually love playing tennis more than poker, but they're not very compatible activities. If I'm playing poker all night long, I can't get up in the morning to play tennis at 10 am. The other thing is that no one pays you any money to play tennis.

WSOP: Being the oldest player at the table, do you feel that you're at a disadvantage in any way?

GEE: I don't think there's any advantage or disadvantage, I am an older guy, but I'm just as quick as the young guns.

WSOP: How did you first get into poker?

GEE: I've been playing since I was 12. You know, nickels dimes and quarters. When I first dropped out of college, one of my friends showed me poker at a local casino. So we played in the \$2 game and I got hooked. Back then, I put in 50-60 hours a week to learn the game.

WSOP: You won a WSOP gold bracelet back in 2010. How does that compare with making the Main Event final table?

GEE: You can't really compare the two. In 2010, that was the ultimate for me. That was the greatest summer of my life and my biggest poker accomplishment and I thought that nothing could ever surpass that. But this summer has been better than that. You can't compare it. The Main Event is the greatest tournament out there. It's the only tournament there is that can literally change your life.

WSOP: Was this your first Main Event?

GEE: I've played the Main Event the last four years. This is the first year that I've cashed.

WSOP: What's different about this year compared to the previous years you played in the Main?

GEE: I'll be honest with you. In 2009, 2010, 2011. I was really happy with the way I played. I played as perfect poker as you could play. But I just got bad beat every year. Pair over pair, I'd get sucked out on. One year I got all the money in on the turn with top set and they made a flush on the river. This summer, I don't think I played as well as I did in the past, but I just got more lucky breaks.

WSOP: Was there a particular point in the tournament where you began to think that you had a real shot at getting here?

GEE: Every single day, I never thought I'd make it to the next day. I had some friends who came out to support me who were here from Day 1. On Day 6 they had to fly back and I told them to go ahead, I don't have very many chips. Every day I finished with 20-25 BB's. I was on CPR. Everyday I was like if I'm still in I'll play, but if not we'll go out for dinner. The turning point for me was Day 7. We were down to around 20 players and I was short stacked down to about 4 million in chips. I pushed all in with pocket 8's and the guy on my left called with pocket 10's and the small blind called with Ace-King. Once the hands were turned up, I picked up my bag, getting ready to head out the door. But the flop came 5-6-7 giving me an open-ended straight draw. The river was a four, and I tripled up and from then on I kept chipping up.

WSOP: What are your plans between now and October?

GEE: I'm going to go home and spend some time with my friends and family for a couple of weeks and then I'm going to head to Los Angeles to play. I'll also add a lot of tournaments to my schedule. I don't have a broad tournament resume because I play mostly cash games, but I will play more in the future.

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MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

GREG MERSON

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Greg Merson |
| Age: | 24 |
| Hometown: | Laurel, Maryland, USA |
| Chip Count: | 28,725,000 (3rd overall) (14.5% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 5 |
| Occupation: | Professional Poker Player (five years) |
| Twitter Handle: | @gregy20723 |
| College: | University of Maryland |
| Marital Status: | Single (Girlfriend) |
| Children: | None |
| Poker Experience: | 8 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$1,253,501 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 5, including one bracelet |
| Best Previous WSOP Finish: | 1 st place – 2012 WSOP, Event #57, \$10,000 6-Handed No-Limit Hold'em |
| Main Event Results: | 1 previous cash (2009: 639 th place for \$21,365) |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 8 Events Cashed: 4 |
| Worth Noting: | Merson is one of only two players to have a WSOP Gold Bracelet (Gee). Friends with fellow Maryland resident and Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps. Considered the most accomplished player remaining at the final table due to his extensive online experience. |

Merson was interviewed the day after reaching the final table (July 17). Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: What got you into poker?

MERSON: Watching it on ESPN.

WSOP: So from Day 1 things just seemed to fall into place?

MERSON: Yeah, pretty much. I mean there were two off days which help but then those days like building on top on each other 3, 4, 5 all the way through especially I think it was Day 5 or Day 6. Yeah Day 6, that took a lot out of me. I was really intensively focused the entire day. I was just drained.

WSOP: What was the last day of play like for you emotionally?

MERSON: Very swingy and the most intensive rush that I've ever had in poker.

WSOP: How does making the final table compare to winning a bracelet?

MERSON: I was telling them earlier when I had queen-ten of diamonds for that 20 million chip pot when I shoved the river....that feeling to be able to do that on national television may be even better than winning the bracelet, because it was such a big pot. And it was starting to become more realistic that I could make it.

WSOP: Would you say that was the turning point of the Main Event for you then?

MERSON: When I ran it up to 950,000 going into Day 6. As soon as I went from 950,000 to 4.4 million without a showdown, except for stacking Vanessa Selbst. I was running these bluffs that will probably be on TV that I liked and they worked. When that kid five-bet all-in with jack-eight suited against my ace-king, I didn't even care because I had 4.4 million. You just can't let it affect you. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and you can't let any type of emotion affect the way that your going to play.

WSOP: What are you going to do with the time off?

MERSON: Hang out with family and friends and my dog. World Series of Poker Europe. I was planning on doing that before I even cashed in the Main Event.

WSOP: This has been a year of a lot of personal triumphs for you. Do you feel like something has shifted in your attitude in life, not just in poker, that's causing all these positive changes?

MERSON: Yeah I thought I had it all figured out at a young age. I thought I had my s*** together. I let the lifestyle get the best of me. It was a good experience to go from being at the top of online cash games to six months later struggling to beat \$1/\$2 Six-Max. I worked really hard to get all the way back to the highest games again, almost to where I was before I came here. I definitely have a way more positive mind set about everything. I am way more comfortable about everything. I don't spend money nearly as much. I'm not flashy.

WSOP: Every day you were sporting a different sports jersey from a wide range of teams. What's with all the jerseys?

MERSON: I just have a bunch of jerseys. I would wear them when I play live when I was playing underground games before I turned 21. I would play home games and I would always wear jerseys. From there, I just started getting more and more. I can wear a different one every day for tournaments. I probably have like 40.

WSOP: Is there a favorite one? Is this your new favorite one?

MERSON: No, I just wore this to stand out. And I thought it was kind of fun.

MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

JESSE SYLVIA

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name: | Jesse Sylvia |
| Age: | 24 |
| Hometown: | Las Vegas, NV, NV/Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts (Born in Malden) |
| Chip Count: | 43,875,000 (1 st overall) (22.1% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 6 |
| Occupation: | Professional Poker Player |
| College: | Cal Lutheran University |
| Marital Status: | Single (Girlfriend) |
| Children: | None |
| Poker Experience: | 3 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$2,954 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 1 (1 in 2011) |
| Best Previous WSOP Finish: | 175 th place – 2011 WSOP, Event #10, \$1500 6-Handed No-Limit Hold'em |
| Main Event Results: | None |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 14 Events Cashed: 1 |
| Worth Noting: | Was a roommate of fellow October Niner Russell Thomas when he moved out to Las Vegas initially. Had dinner together during dinner breaks of this tournament from Day 2 on. |

Sylvia was interviewed the day after reaching the final table (July 17). Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: At this point, many people out there may not have a rooting interest in the 2012 WSOP final table. Why do you think someone watching the broadcast might want to cheer for you?

SYLVIA: I'm not sure, but when I dream about this, I like to think of myself as the hero of the story and not the villain. When I made the final table, I had a lot of people coming up to me and say, 'It couldn't happen to a better person.' I do not know if it's because I am friendly, or nice, or outgoing – but I seem to get along with many people. It felt really great to get that kind of feedback.

WSOP: Speaking of people rooting for you – one would normally be your friend Russell Thomas, except that he's also part of this final table. Talk about that.

SYLVIA: I learned a lot from Russell, who I stayed with when I first moved out here to Las Vegas. He taught me a lot of things. Now, he's got a real job outside of poker and here I am playing poker for a

living. He's said I have moved way past him, that I've gotten better than him – which I do not believe is true. For about a year after I lived with Russell, I would sometimes hear his voice in my head. He would be telling me what to do or caution me from making a bad decision. Eventually, that became my own voice where I developed my own thought process. But as I said earlier, I feel like a donk stuck inside a good player's body. I have to keep the donk contained. I know what the right move is. I just have to act on it.

WSOP: When you lived with Russell did you ever discuss the dream scenario of playing for the World Championship against each other at the Main Event final table?

SYLVIA: Of course. After Day Two, Russell and I had dinner together every night. We would talk about our chip counts and hands we played over dinner. Then, his family came out and my girlfriend came and when all of us would get dinner I would be like, "I hope you're the one I get to play heads up. When we got down to ten-handed, we just looked at each other. I was shaking my head and he was shaking his head back and forth. It was apparent we were both going to make it. Then, we went out and partied last night, afterwards. I was sitting with him and I said, 'Like, oh my God, – this is incredible!' So yeah, we've talked about it but it's always been a joke.

WSOP: The lead-up to the moment when you made the October Nine was not only intense, but historic. Were you aware of the added fan interest and significance of having two women – Gaelle Baumann and Elisabeth Hille in contention for seats at the final table?

SYLVIA: I was really torn about this. With two girls left when we were at 12-handed, I thought for sure at least one of them would make it. I was thinking – this is really going to be cool. But it didn't happen, which I think was unfortunate. It would have been great.

WSOP: Can you elaborate?

SYLVIA: Well, I have been teaching my girlfriend poker for the last five months. She's getting really good. She has been playing at the casinos. Through teaching her poker, I really got to learn a lot about what's good for poker in terms of getting more women into the game. There are so few women in poker. As to the reason why that is, I got a really great point of view from her as to why that is. She has so many guys at the table hit on her. It's flattering on one hand. But she is there to play poker and it gets old. It's like a female sits down at the table and everyone goes, "A woman!" Some of them freak out and have to try and make moves. After a while she's like, 'Can't I just be a person that likes to play poker?' So, when I became aware of that through her, I started becoming much more sympathetic to that point of view.

So, in a strange way – I felt as though I had a certain connection with the goal of getting a woman to the final table and that being really exciting. When we got down to ten-handed and Gaelle (Baumann) was really short, obviously I was rooting to just get rid of a player and make it to the final nine. But when she busted out – well, I will not lie, my first thought was that I was thrilled to make the final table. But then I saw her in the payout room afterwards and she was like distraught about her shove with ace-nine (final hand). I told her she played it fine.

WSOP: You are the chip leader going into the finale. The last three years, the chip leader has finished second, first, and second. Right now, if a wizard were to magically appear and offer you a guaranteed second-place finish would you accept the offer?

SYLVIA: Honestly, I would have to think about it a bit more. But my gut instinct is that I would not take second. I think the way I think about this is unique to me because I am different than a lot of people who get to this stage. There is a common thread that poker players do not care about money when it comes to playing. But I do not really care that much about money even away from the table. I have taken months off and traveled. I lived in Costa Rica for three months, where I lived on like \$1,200 the entire time. I can live on no money and be very happy. Of course, we have already made a lot of money (by finishing at least ninth) – but it's not like that's enough money to do whatever you want the rest of your life. So,

thinking about it a bit more, I might accept the five million dollars. But I still think I would be a little more inclined to go for the glory.

WSOP: Talk more about money in terms of its value to you as a poker player. After all, money is one of the tools of your trade.

SYLVIA: I am a huge, huge believer in the idea that the people in your life make you rich. If you have really good people around you and great relationships with those you care about, you just feel good. Everything just becomes more amazing. I am not sure what happened to me the last few years, but I became more aware of this. I think part of it was that I switched from mostly playing online to having to go out and play live poker. I had to interact with people more. I also got out more and that's how I found my girlfriend, by getting out. I look around and I see the entire world as my friend. I see someone and I just feel something for people, even if I have not talked to them before.

WSOP: Can you explain more about that?

SYLVIA: I was playing at the Bellagio some time ago and I saw Doyle Brunson coming out. He was on his scooter. He was coming out of Bobby's Room. As he drove past me, we locked eyes. I saw him. And, he saw me. Then, he flashed me that big Doyle smile. I thought to myself – it's so cool. Then, I thought a bit more and I realize – hey wait a minute. I don't even know Doyle. He mind-tricked me into thinking we have been friends for 25 years. And that's how I feel the world should be like. Obviously, you can't trust everyone. But I like to give people the benefit of the doubt. I think people like positive people. So, money is great. But the way you conduct yourself with people in this world is so much more important. I can do that with no money. Obviously, it's much better to have money. So, the more I think about that earlier question – I think I would go for the glory at this point.

WSOP: What is your personal background? Where did you grow up?

SYLVIA: I grew up on a little island called Martha's Vineyard, in Massachusetts. It's a really crazy place. In the winter, it's a lot of people who have lived there for 30 years. Like my dad – he bought his property there years ago for like nine-grand, which would be worth I can't even imagine today. There are like 30,000 of us who live there year-around. Then, when the summer comes – it's like 150,000 people. Everything changes. There are celebrities with \$10 million summer homes on the beach. So, I would call it a very bipolar place to live.

WSOP: What are your parents like?

SYLVIA: My dad is an engineer on a scientific research vessel. He's the head engineer and takes care of a lot of things on the ship. He's really opposite of me in some ways because I would never be able to learn those things. I always wanted to be an inventor when I was growing up. As for my mother – she does a lot of different things like landscaping, seamstress work, and clothing design. But she is mainly a florist. My mom went to fashion school along with my sister and they designed a line of clothing together that was featured at one of the summer festivals on Martha's Vineyard. I was there for that last year. There were many people wearing clothing my mom and sister had designed and they were walking the red carpet, which was really exciting. She has a really creative side.

WSOP: What would you be doing as a career if not for poker?

SYLVIA: My sister talked to me and she suggested I be an actuary. That might be what direction I would go. My one sister has a civil engineering degree and I am like her, which is kind of the analytical type, whereas my other sister is a designer, which I am so jealous of. I think being an artist is so incredible. I can do a lot of things with numbers. But when it comes to drawing figures or something like that, it is not happening.

WSOP: Aside from possibly winning the World Championship – which changes everything, perhaps -- do you see yourself being as involved in the game in ten years, as you are now?

SYLVIA: I always want to be involved in the game. But I am not sure I want to be grinding it out every day ten years from now. I told myself that I will play the WSOP every year that I can, because it's so

different. It's not like going out to the casino every day. It's much more exciting as it builds and builds as you get closer to a gold bracelet. Cash games are not really like that. So, I will probably always play the WSOP. But I also hope I get to the point in my life where I am financially stable enough to do other things and not have to depend on poker for all my income.

WSOP: What other things would you be interested in doing?

SYLVIA: I am interested in going to film school. I still plan to move to Los Angeles and get involved in film. If I can make it a little deeper, I can take more time off. Film school is something I really want to do a lot. I am interested in writing scripts, and perhaps direct. I do not have the production part of it down, yet. But, we'll see.

WSOP: What are your favorite movies?

SYLVIA: High Fidelity. Fight Club has to be up there. Inglorious Bastards is also one of my new favorite movies. It's one of the best movies made in the last ten years. Anything by Kevin Smith is absolutely amazing. I think the world of Kevin Smith. Then, there's Schindler's List. My girlfriend got me into The Godfather recently. I had always thought I had seen them. But then I watched them more closely all the way through with her, and I was like, 'Wow – these are beautifully-done movies.' One of my favorite things to do is just hang out and watch movies.

WSOP: This has to be a high point for you, so far as your poker career goes. Were there any low points along the road to get here?

SYLVIA: I never had moments of sheer despair. But -- let me tell you my high point, because it kind of leads into it. I was a senior in college. I was basically dead broke. I came home on one of the breaks and did a job where I was working in like 12-degree weather. It was brutal. I made some money and put it into (online poker) when I got back to college. I was pretty good at tournaments, but I had horrible bankroll management. Most players will tell you that you can be the best player in the world, but if you fail at bankroll management, then you have no chance. I did well at first, and ran up what I put in up to like eight grand. I was really excited.

Then, I satellited into a (big Sunday online tournament) where I ended up making a three-way deal and I made over \$100,000. At the time, I did not even have a computer. My laptop was broken. I was playing in the math lab where I was tutoring people. I had all these people around me who were in shock. They were watching me win like one-hundred grand. That was a pretty cool experience. Fast forward six months later. I had decided to break from school and decided to just play poker full-time. I wasn't going to get a job. I started playing Pot-Limit Omaha. It's so much fun. But it can also be so brutal. I think the first week I played I went from a \$30,000 upswing to a \$60,000 downswing. By the time it was over, I had like \$10,000 left and maybe some money in the bank. I had gone back home (to Martha's Vineyard) and I was driving along the beach with my sister. I remember looking out from the beach and thinking about all the money I had lost. I remember thinking, I can't deal with this. You should never have to go to your job or whatever you do and feel like this. In time, I realize that you just have to deal with the bad and then eventually the good will come back. And now, this feels so amazing. I guess I could work a regular job like be in an office. But I also need my peaks and valleys in life.

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MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

ROBERT SALABURU

Name: Robert Salaburu

Age: 27

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas (Born in San Benito, TX)

Chip Count: 15,155,000 (7th overall) (7.6% of chips in play)

Seat: 7

Occupation: Professional Poker Player

College: None

Marital Status: Single

Children: None

Poker Experience: 6 years

WSOP Earnings: \$0

WSOP Cashes: 0

Best Previous WSOP Finish: None

Main Event Results: No previous cashes

2012 Events Entered: 4 **Events Cashed:** 1

Salaburu was interviewed two weeks after the October Nine was set (July 30). Here is the transcript of that phone interview:

WSOP: How many years have you been playing professionally?

SALABURU: I guess about seven.

WSOP: So you started when you were, what, twenty years old?

SALABURU: Between 18 and 20 I was going back and forth between poker and school and I was never really full time on either. Then, finally, I just quit registering for classes and only played poker. I would register for classes every semester and end up dropping them or not showing up. I wasn't the best at school. I just wasn't very driven and had no motivation to go, so I finally just stopped paying for classes when I was around 20.

WSOP: Where were you in school?

SALABURU: I went to school the first semester after I left high school. I moved in with a buddy in Miami and went to Miami-Dade, which is a community college. He was going there and I decided to move up there and meet him. I signed up for classes and just ended up playing a bunch of cash games the whole time. I ran it up pretty substantially and then busted myself in a 64-hour time span (laughs). I ended up trucking back to Texas to try to rebuild and signed up for classes there. I always wondered what my life would've been like if I never played poker because I may have stayed in school and ended up in a more stable lifestyle. I guess, at this point, I am glad I stuck with it.

WSOP: Who first got you interested in poker?

SALABURU: When I was 16 or 17 we had a buddy in high school and we would play in his garage. Stupid games like Baseball and Chicago and all kinds of weird, fun games. We'd have a good time and I enjoyed it a lot. That was right around when PartyPoker was getting big and I got some money online and I was hooked.

WSOP: When did you first start playing at the World Series of Poker?

SALABURU: I guess my first WSOP was when I was 22 or 23. I was mostly a cash game player at the time, so I was playing cash. The last three years, I have been playing more and more events. I played the Main Event the last three years.

WSOP: How many events did you play this summer?

SALABURU: I think I played around five. I was out there for a month prior to the Main Event. I played the first three or four events and played cash on the side for three weeks. I was stuck a little bit on the trip and came back home and relaxed a little bit. Then I came back for the Main Event.

WSOP: At what point during the Main Event did you start thinking to yourself that you had a legitimate shot of making the October Nine?

SALABURU: Probably with about 100 players left. I continued to hold the chip lead for about two days. Whenever I get a chip lead in a tournament, I am pretty hyper-aggressive. I tend to just go for it and try to maintain. When you have chips late in a tournament like that and you see them breaking to ten tables, then nine tables, then eight tables, then fifty people then 25. Right around there, I knew I had a legitimate shot of getting there and making a good run at it.

WSOP: You're a guy who has been in the poker world a while and you had some notable pros on your rail. Did any of them give you advice late in the tournament or were you just playing your own game?

SALABURU: I mean, my own game got me there, so I wasn't looking to take any advice. Obviously the best advice they could give me was to just keep on trucking. I was doing something right. At that point when you're in the zone and dialed in and you get to a point where everybody knows how to play the game and you just have to run good and the cards will lay where they lay. I was having fun with the Main Event the whole time and had the attitude that the cards will lay where they lay, because whenever I tend to be put too much pressure on myself, it tends to not make the game fun. And that is why I started to play the game and got into this, because it is fun. After a certain point, when you beat your head into the wall so many times, it stops being fun. So I just made it fun and went with it. It is nice going home and being able to talk hand histories with some of the best minds in the game. This summer, if I had a question on a couple of hands, they could give me a different route or give me their theory on it.

WSOP: Is there any person in particular that you sought advice from or plan to talk with during your downtime?

SALABURU: My buddy Bobby Lane and David Emmons are both big online players. Also Stephen Chidwick. They are a good core group of friends and it is good to be able to talk strategy with them.

WSOP: Do you have any plans for the downtime before the final table?

SALABURU: I plan to play some tournaments in the South, mostly the Main Events. Then maybe I'll go down to Mexico to go hang out and relax on the beach for a bit because I have a bunch of friends who live in Cabo [San Lucas]. I will probably go to WSOP Europe and see what happens. I haven't been to Europe since I was 13, so it will be a vacation in and of itself. Europe is awesome. I love to travel, I've always loved to travel and I think that is what kind of kept me in this for so long. Even though downswings are brutal, being able to go to a new place and enjoy it is always better than being at home. I am not one to be in one place, I always like to float around.

WSOP: Sounds like poker is a good profession for you then.

SALABURU: Yeah, like I said, I have never been good at reporting to people and taking orders from people, so I had to figure out something in a hurry. I guess I just kind of stuck with what I knew.

MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

ANDRAS KOROKNAI

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Name: | Andras Koroknai |
| Age: | 30 |
| Hometown: | Debrecen, Hungary |
| Chip Count: | 29,375,000 (2 nd overall) (14.8% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 8 |
| Occupation: | Professional Poker Player |
| College: | University of Debrecen; Computers |
| Marital Status: | Single |
| Children: | None |
| Poker Experience: | 6 years |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$39,371 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 2 (both in 2010) |
| Main Event Results: | 1 previous cash (2010: 339 th place for \$36,473) |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 1 Events Cashed: 1 |
| Worth Noting: | Is the first Hungarian to reach the WSOP Main Event final table Can become the first Hungarian Main Event champion Has the biggest tournament win of any player in field, winning the 2010 LA Poker Classic for \$1,788,040. |

Koroknai was interviewed the day after reaching the final table (July 17). Due to his limited English, the interview was conducted through the use of a translator. Here is the transcript of that interview:

WSOP: Tell us about yourself. Where were you born and where do you now live?

KOROKNAI: I was born in a Debrecen Hungary. I live there now for the most part, but I am travelling around the world, mostly I am in Europe and the United States.

WSOP: Do you work or have you ever had a job other than poker?

KOROKNAI: I was a computer engineer and I was self-employed. I was working for my Uncle's company called PC MAX KFT before dedicating to poker full-time.

WSOP: How did you discover poker?

KOROKNAI: I started to play poker because I got into an accident in Greece and I got injured. I was driving a moped and I fell. I almost fell down a cliff, but there was a sign that stopped me. I consider myself really lucky to survive that accident. After the accident, I started playing poker and I got really into it and decided to play it professionally. For the first part of my first year playing poker, I did not win any tournaments, and after that I started to win smaller tournaments.

WSOP: So that's the only reason why you started to play poker?

KOROKNAI: Yes, I was injured and it affected my soul and body and I was really depressed with life and needed to find something else to do.

WSOP: How many years have you attended the WSOP and played the Main Event.

KOROKNAI: I started playing professionally in 2009 and I have played the WSOP ever since. I cashed in the Main Event in 2010.

WSOP: What made you decide to play the Main Event this year?

KOROKNAI: Since I know about the WSOP, I really wanted to win the Main Event and that is why I entered. Whatever I do, whether it is poker or anything else, I want to do my best and try my hardest.

WSOP: How much do you play poker besides WSOP events?

KOROKNAI: This year, I mainly concentrated on my personal life, but I still play a lot of poker. I have also played a lot of high-stake cash games.

WSOP: When did you feel like you were going to be a part of the October Nine?

KOROKNAI: When I registered for the event, I felt like I was going to make it.

WSOP: Tell us about the hand where you accidentally mucked your cards, and needed a floor ruling in your favor to keep you alive in this tournament?

KOROKNAI: At first, I felt that the world was going to end. After that, when I got a second chance, I felt like that I had nothing to lose anymore and it was like the pressure was off.

(Note: According to the official WSOP rules, the ruling was the correct decision. But his opponent did show Pocket Kings in the hand, a hand that Koroknai was behind in at the time of the ruling. Koroknai lost 60,000 in chips on the hand that he originally verbalized "all-in", but that was a better result for him then if he didn't accidentally muck his hand and had to face the Pocket Kings of his opponent Gaelle Baumann. The rule in poker is that once you muck your hand with action pending, your hand is considered dead.)

WSOP: You eliminated both the 11th and 10th place finishers in this tournament, the females. How did you feel about that?

KOROKNAI: I hadn't thought about it. When I sit down at the table, I don't care if it's a male or female player, everybody is equal and everybody wants to win. Everybody is each other's opponents. There is no friendship at the poker table.

WSOP: How do you feel about being the only non-American at the final table?

KOROKNAI: I hadn't thought about it. I honestly don't care. I am very proud that I represent my small country.

WSOP: How did it feel to have other Hungarians at the WSOP behind you and supporting you?

KOROKNAI: It was an amazing experience and feeling. I was really thankful that they were there. Hungarians are the best fans and supporters.

WSOP: How are you going to spend your time in the next 3 months and how are you going to prepare for the final table?

KOROKNAI: I am going to relax a little bit and then I am going to play a bunch in Europe.

###

MEET THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER OCTOBER NINE

MICHAEL ESPOSITO

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Name: | Michael Esposito |
| Age: | 44 (2 nd oldest at final table, behind Steve Gee) |
| Hometown: | Seaford, New York |
| Chip Count: | 16,260,000 (6th overall) (8.2% of chips in play) |
| Seat: | 9 |
| Occupation: | Commodity Broker, New York City |
| Marital Status: | Single (Girlfriend) |
| Children: | James (21) and Nicole (13) |
| Poker Experience: | Amateur, plays only a couple times a year as a hobby |
| WSOP Earnings: | \$24,934 |
| WSOP Cashes: | 2 (2006, 2009) |
| Main Event Results: | 1 previous cash (2006: 540 th place for \$22,266) |
| 2012 WSOP: | Events Entered: 1 Events Cashed: 1 |
| Worth Noting: | Had \$172,806 in career earnings entering this event. Biggest previous cash was for \$47,310. |

WSOP: When you entered this event, what were your expectations?

ESPOSITO: My expectations were really the final table. That was the only reason I came. I came in with a mindset just to go. I played in it a few years past where I tried to win it early on. This year I kind of went in with a different philosophy that I would just go day to day and play day to day. Now I've got a shot.

WSOP: What about that philosophy do you think helped you out here?

ESPOSITO: I think that I didn't push off the stack. I didn't try to run over the field. I think a lot of players who tried to do that aren't here anymore. I am happy to be here.

WSOP: You're a triathlete, so your body has been through a lot of strain. Talk about those marathons versus this marathon?

ESPOSITO: You know, it's a long grind. Sometimes you are going to go on tilt and things are going to go bad. You just keep trying and keep pushing and keep

going forward. You try not to get discouraged and hopefully it will be a good October.

WSOP: Do you draw from similar things when competing in a triathlon versus a grueling tournament like this?

ESPOSITO: You just try to be disciplined, you know? It takes a lot of discipline to go far and that's it. I just tried to stay along those lines.

WSOP: What kind of support did you get from family and friends back home during the event?

ESPOSITO: I had a lot of friends and people texting me. My girlfriend was here for a bit. There was a lot of love shown to me and it was greatly appreciated. I know a lot of people were following me online. I was really just trying to be low key. Everybody kept sending me congratulations and they were watching. They were praying for me. God bless them.

WSOP: What would it mean to you to bring this home to your family friends that love and support you?

ESPOSITO: It would mean a lot to me. I came here to win it and hopefully that is what it will be. I think they would all share in the excitement of it.

WSOP: What was the initial spark that got you into poker?

ESPOSITO: I used to play a lot of Seven-Card Stud. I used to come out here to play the Seven-Card Stud events. Really, Hold'em took off and then I started playing Hold'em. I paid a lot of dues in the game learning through the years.

WSOP: Being a past participant, was there any reason in particular you decided to play this year's Main Event?

ESPOSITO: Last year I was going through some turmoil. Different things were going on in my life. The year before I had played and went out set over set and it was just another hard year in the Main Event. Last year I just took the year off, but I started doing triathlons. I actually decided to go to Ireland. Basically it was a decision, 'Come to the World Series (of Poker), or go to Ireland on vacation with my son.' And I chose to go to Ireland with my son. I never regretted it. I think the year break did me good. I had planned (to play the Main Event) the whole year and I came out here in June and I played a couple small warm-up tournaments at The Venetian. The first tournament I played, I split. I was just in a good mindset to play. I basically was looking to come out and have a good World Series of Poker.

WSOP: When you aren't playing poker, what is a typical day like for you home in New York?

ESPOSITO: I get up at 4:50 in the morning and I either go running or I ride my bike. Then I go to work. I take a 7:04 train to work and then I get in the city and I work until about 5 o'clock. Then I come home and I swim three days a week. The nights I don't swim, I have dinner with my daughter every Wednesday. That's basically my week. On the weekends, it depends what is going on with my kids. Besides that, most weekends I ride my bike for 50-60 miles every Saturday and I swim and run a little bit. That's about it.

WSOP: What is your motivation to keep that routine and put your body through that?

ESPOSITO: You know what? I was in bad shape. At one point in my life I was 223 lbs and I was a smoker. In my early 30s I felt like I was about 55 and now I'm 43 and I feel like I'm about 25. So, it's a big difference.

WSOP: Outside of the WSOP, how much poker are you playing?

ESPOSITO: I have to be honest with you, I don't really play that much poker at all anymore. I usually play the Harrah's WSOP Circuit event in Atlantic City, which I've done pretty well in. I usually play the \$1,000 buy-in there. I usually go there in December, and to be honest with you, I don't really have the time. Most of the events are five and six days long and it doesn't really fit into my life schedule. I look for events that are short. The Main Event was a commitment to come, but I knew and I planned this a year in advance that I was going to be here for this.

WSOP: What was the turning point in the Main Event when you really felt you had a shot to make the final table?

ESPOSITO: I felt I had the chance before I got here. The biggest hand I played the whole event was early on Day 1. I had ace king and basically it was a multiple-raised hand, and I really was not a big fan. I knew the player was really aggressive and it basically was raised back and forth. He ended up calling my last raise. The board paired nines with a three. I checked and he made a big bet and I called. The turn came up an empty card and we both checked. On the river he put in a huge bet to bet me off the hand and I took like ten minutes to think about it. I just had a feeling he had ace queen. I was like, 'You know what? If I'm wrong, I'm wrong.' I called with the ace king and it basically put me in good contention. I never cared where I was in comparison in chips. I just went day to day. Everyday I was okay. I stopped texting people chip counts because every time I texted a chip count I came back and lost a third of my stack. My texts went like, 'Doing okay. Good shape.' I wasn't saying anything. My goal was to make it day to day and that's all I did. Now it will be a good day in October. Hopefully I got two more days of good poker left.

WSOP: You said you entered this tournament, to win. Is that for the \$8.5 million or the bracelet?

ESPOSITO: Trust me, the money is more important than the bracelet. If you wanted to tell me that I could come in second and get the \$8.5 million and the other guy could have the \$5 million, I'd sign up for that deal right now. I don't need any of the stuff that goes with it. Realistically, my year to play poker next year will probably be very similar to my year to play poker this year. I'll play in a few small tournaments during the year. If something works work-wise I might play something else next year. Maybe I'll play two or three small tournaments and the Main Event next year. It's really not going to make that big of a difference. But, I'm hoping this can get me in the Ironman World Championship in October because they have a big media thing, so maybe they'll give me a slot to go. I'm going to try to see if I can do that. I'm going to try to play that card.

WSOP: How much would that race mean to you? Is there an amount of money you'd give up if it meant running it?

ESPOSITO: It's very expensive to do, it's not a cheap hobby. I qualified for a big race in Vermont, but I'm going to be on a waiting list. But that's very exciting. I'm not one of these guys who is going to pay \$100,000 to go to the race. I did the New York City triathlon, same thing, it was a lottery.

WSOP: If you won \$8.5 million would you do anything differently? Maybe enter some of those expensive races?

ESPOSITO: Honestly, I'd just go live the same life I live. I have a pretty happy life. The \$8.5 million, believe me it would be the greatest thing. But I have a pretty content, happy life. I don't need cars, I have a nice house, I have a nice quiet life. I like my life.

WSOP: How did you feel when you knew you were one of the final nine?

ESPOSITO: I was excited. I was kind of relieved it was over. It was a long couple of days. I basically did a race in New York Sunday. I had to get up at 3:45 in the morning in New York Sunday to be at the race at 5 o'clock in the morning. Then I did the race, I went back to Long Island, brought all my stuff home, ran to J.F.K., jumped on the 6 o'clock flight, flew out here. The flight got delayed an hour and a half. I got out here at 11 o'clock Sunday night. I picked up a rental car. I got here, I got my I.D.. I ran to the Bellagio, picked up Chinese food. Got into my room, ate the food at like 1 o'clock in the morning. I got up in the morning and worked out and ran -- which I probably shouldn't have. I should have taken the day off, but I was worried about sitting down the whole day. The smart thing I did, though, was on Tuesday I went hiking at Mount Charleston and I had a nice, quiet, relaxing day and I went out for an early dinner. I probably went to sleep by 9:30. That was it. That really put me pretty good.

WSOP: Are you going to go home and study your game?

ESPOSITO: Not at all. You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to go home. I'm going to relax. I'm going to do everything I've been doing the whole time before I came here. I know these guys are all watching every hand. Half the time I don't even know what I'm going to do or what I'm doing. Whatever it is, it will be months later. I'm just going to come back and play every hand as one hand. You can't really make a decision in advance. How many people came in every day as the chip leader and then they weren't here because they came in with the thought, 'Okay. I'm pressing the field.' I'm just going to enjoy the moment, come back in October and see what happens.

#



Facts Stats and Figures



UPDATED PAYOUTS

On July 17, 2012 the nine remaining players each were paid ninth place prize money (\$754,798) from the initial \$27,247,840 that was slotted for the first nine places in the tournament. The remaining amount (\$20,454,658) for spots 1-8 were placed into a Fidelity Investments Money Market account on July 27, 2012. The fund's objective seeks to maximize current income to the extent consistent with the preservation of capital and the maintenance of liquidity. That \$20,454,658 accrued \$10,185 in interest, which when added to the prize pool will pay out the following:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st Place | \$8,531,853 |
| 2 nd Place | \$5,295,149 |
| 3 rd Place | \$3,799,073 |
| 4 th Place | \$2,851,537 |
| 5 th Place | \$2,155,313 |
| 6 th Place | \$1,640,902 |
| 7 th Place | \$1,258,040 |
| 8 th Place | \$971,360 |
| Total | \$26,503,227 |

- Note \$6,793,182 was paid out already (9 places x \$754,798)
- Updated Total Prize Pool for this Final Table = \$27,258,025
- Updated Total Prize Pool for 2012 WSOP Main Event = \$62,031,385

Computing the Math

Below shows the original figures and the added interest dollar amounts and payout percentages to achieve the above revised payouts.

| | <u>Original Amount</u> | <u>Added Interest</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Place | \$8,527,982 | \$3871 | 38% |
| 2 nd Place | \$5,292,889 | \$2260 | 22.19% |
| 3 rd Place | \$3,797,558 | \$1515 | 14.88% |
| 4 th Place | \$2,850,494 | \$1043 | 10.25% |
| 5 th Place | \$2,154,616 | \$697 | 6.84% |
| 6 th Place | \$1,640,461 | \$441 | 4.33% |
| 7 th Place | \$1,257,790 | \$250 | 2.46% |
| 8 th Place | \$971,252 | \$108 | 1.06% |
| 9 th Place | \$754,798 | No change | \$0 |

Worth Noting

- Since each of the nine players received ninth place money, the person who finishes in ninth place will receive no additional cash.
- The Main Event paid out 666 places and each of those places was slotted a percentage of the prize pool totaling 100%. When redistributing the interest, 658 of the 666 slots were removed, with the percentages redistributed amongst the top eight places in a sliding scale percentage consistent with the original payout structure.
- The \$20,454,658 was put into a Money Market Account at Fidelity Investments (Fund Name: FIMM FUNDS: MONEY MARKET PORT INST CL, Fund #2013) on July 27, 2012 and removed on October 22, 2012.



A NUMBERS GAME – 2012 WSOP MAIN EVENT

- 6,598 # of players who entered
- 666 # of players who cashed
- \$62,031,385 Total Prize Pool
- \$27,258,025 Total Prize Pool left for remaining 9 players (43.9% of total prize pool)
- \$93,125 Average payout for those who cashed
- \$8,531,853 1st Place Prize (+ Gold Bracelet valued at \$150,000)
- \$754,798 Amount each of the 9 have been paid already (9th place)
- \$3,028,669 Average amount the final 9 players will win
- 83 # of countries who participated in Main Event this year
- 96.8% Percentage of men in this year's Main Event (6,387 players)
- 37.74 Average age of entrants
- 31.66 Average age of Final Table participants
- 30,000 # of chips each player started the tournament with
- 197,940,000 # of chips entered into play during this event
- 197,970,000 # of chips remaining between final 9 players
- 21,996,666 Chip average of remaining players
- 73.32 # of big blinds on average per player
- 4 # of players above the chip average
- 0 # of players with under 30 big blinds average [Ausmus has 32]
- 34 Level in which play will resume for the final 9 players

- 43 Level in which Pius Heinz won the 2011 Main Event (Was Level 40 in 2010 & 2009)
- 103 Days in between play (from July 17 to October 29)
- 40,000 Ante each player is forced to bet each hand upon resumption
- 150,000 What the small blind forced bet will be
- 300,000 What the big blind forced bet will be
- 21 years, 281 days Age of Jake Balsiger, the youngest player left
- 21 years, 356 days Age of Joe Cada, the youngest Main Event champion ever (2009)
- 57 Age of Steve Gee, the oldest player left
- 5 # of players who are under 30 years old
- 3 # of players past 10 years who started & finished final table in 1st
Grey Raymer (2004); Jamie Gold (2006); Jonathan Duhamel (2010)
- 1 # of players past decade who started 1st but finished 9th (Philip Hilm, 2007)
- 4,579 # of entrants from USA in this year's Main Event (69.4%)
- 8 # of remaining players from USA (88.88%)
- 17 # of entrants from Hungary in this year's Main Event (0.025%)
- 1 # of remaining players from Hungary (11.11%)

43rd Annual World Series of Poker

2012 Main Event – By the Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Total # of Entries: | 6,598 |
| Game: | No Limit Texas Hold'em |
| Entry Fee: | \$10,000 |
| Net Prize Pool: | \$62,031,385 |
| Entries by Day: | 1A: 1,066 1B: 2,114 1C: 3,418 2A: 2,044 2B: 2,300 |
| Total Day 2 Players: | 4,344 |
| Total Day 3 Players: | 1,765 |
| Total Day 4 Players: | 720 |
| Total Day 5 Players: | 282 |
| Total Day 6 Players: | 97 |
| Total Day 7 Players: | 27 |
| Total Day 8 Players: | 9 |
| Players in the Money: | 666 |

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1st Place Prize: | \$8,531,853 |
| 2nd Place Prize: | \$5,295,149 |
| 3rd Place Prize: | \$3,799,073 |
| 4th Place Prize: | \$2,851,537 |
| 5th Place Prize: | \$2,155,313 |
| 6th Place Prize: | \$1,640,902 |
| 7th Place Prize: | \$1,258,040 |
| 8th Place Prize: | \$971,360 |
| 9th Place Prize: | \$754,798 |

*Note: Final 9 players received 9th place prize money on July 17 and the rest of the money was placed in an interest-bearing account added to the prize pool on a percentage basis for the final 8 finishers on October 22, 2012. (\$10,185).

666th place pays (last place): \$19,227

Last Year's Key Stats

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Defending Champion: | Pius Heinz, Cologne, Germany |
| 2011 1st Place Prize: | \$8,715,638 |
| 2011 Net Prize Pool: | \$64,540,858 |
| 2011 No. of Entries: | 6,865 |



WORLD SERIES OF POKER (WSOP) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) instituted a Player of the Year system in 2004, once Harrah's (now Caesars) took over the tournament.

The system awards points based on finish for all open bracelet events. Anyone who cashes in a WSOP gold bracelet event is awarded points. And the player with the most overall points is the winner of the WSOP Player of the Year. Bluff Magazine created and powers the formula used to determine the WSOP POY.

Adding the WSOP Player of the Year to your resume is one of the highest honors a poker player can achieve.

Typically, the individual who wins this award has multiple in-the-money finishes and a WSOP gold bracelet among those cashes. In fact, no player has won the award without at least capturing a gold bracelet.

The WSOP Player of the Year includes all open bracelet events in a calendar year. This year's winner had 65 events to compete in to qualify for the WSOP Player of the Year: 58 open events at the WSOP, and the seven that were up for grabs in Cannes, France at WSOP Europe.

Phil Hellmuth, with two WSOP gold bracelets, four final table appearances and 889.33 points, leads the 2012 WSOP Player of the Year standings. However, Greg Merson has 481.13 points and can earn an additional 500 points if he wins the WSOP Main Event. So Merson must win the Main Event to beat Hellmuth and capture the WSOP Player of the Year crown. He would have 981.13 points if he won the WSOP Main Event. Merson would finish second in the WSOP Player of the Year if he finishes 2nd, 3rd or 4th in the Main Event.

The current WSOP Player of the Year standings can be found here:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/2012.asp?sort=poypts>

Last year, it also took until the Final Table of the WSOP Main Event to determine the winner. Ben Lamb beat out Phil Hellmuth for the crown. Regardless of where Hellmuth finishes this year, it will be the best finish by a player in back to back years since the inception of the WSOP Player of the Year.

Below is a list of WSOP Player of the Year winners, along with their accomplishments in their winning year.

WSOP PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS (Historical)

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>BRACELETS</u> | <u>FINAL TABLES</u> | <u>CASHES</u> | <u>MONEY WON</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2004 | Daniel Negreanu | 1 | 5 | 6 | \$346,280 |
| 2005 | Allen Cunningham | 1 | 4 | 5 | \$1,006,935 |
| 2006 | Jeff Madsen | 2 | 4 | 4 | \$1,467,852 |
| 2007 | Tom Schneider | 2 | 3 | 3 | \$416,829 |
| 2008 | Erick Lindgren | 1 | 3 | 5 | \$1,348,528 |
| 2009 | Jeffrey Lisandro | 3 | 4 | 6 | \$807,521 |
| 2010 | Frank Kassela | 2 | 3 | 6 | \$1,255,314 |
| 2011 | Ben Lamb | 1 | 4 | 5 | \$5,352,970 |



FINAL HANDS DETAILS OF WSOP MAIN EVENT

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>WINNER</u> | <u>WINNING HAND</u> | <u>PRIZE</u> | <u>ENTRIES</u> | <u>RUNNER UP</u> | <u>LOSING HAND</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1970 | Johnny Moss | | Silver Cup | 7 | Winner by vote of peers | |
| 1971 | Johnny Moss | | \$30,000 | 6 | W.C. "Puggy" Pearson | |
| 1972 | Amarillo Slim | K J | \$80,000 | 8 | W.C. "Puggy" Pearson | 6 6 |
| 1973 | W.C. "Puggy" Pearson | A♠ 7♠ | \$130,000 | 13 | Johnny Moss | K♥ J♠ |
| 1974 | Johnny Moss | 3♥ 3♠ | \$160,000 | 16 | Crandall Addington | A♠ 2♠ |
| 1975 | Brian "Sailor" Roberts | J♠ J♥ | \$210,000 | 21 | Bob Hooks | J♠ 9♠ |
| 1976 | Doyle Brunson | 10♠ 2♠ | \$220,000 | 22 | Jesse Alto | A♠ J♦ |
| 1977 | Doyle Brunson | 10♠ 2♥ | \$340,000 | 34 | Gary Berland | 8♥ 5♠ |
| 1978 | Bobby Baldwin | Q♦ Q♣ | \$210,000 | 42 | Crandall Addington | 9♦ 9♠ |
| 1979 | Hal Fowler | 7♠ 6♦ | \$270,000 | 54 | Bobby Hoff | A♠ A♥ |
| 1980 | Stu Ungar | 5♠ 4♠ | \$385,000 | 73 | Doyle Brunson | A♥ 7♠ |
| 1981 | Stu Ungar | A♥ Q♥ | \$375,000 | 75 | Perry Green | 10♠ 9♦ |
| 1982 | Jack Straus | A♥ 10♠ | \$520,000 | 104 | Dewey Tomko | A♦ 4♦ |
| 1983 | Tom McEvoy | Q♦ Q♠ | \$540,000 | 108 | Rod Peate | K♦ J♦ |
| 1984 | Jack Keller | 10♥ 10♠ | \$660,000 | 132 | Byron Wolford | 6♥ 4♥ |
| 1985 | Bill Smith | 3♠ 3♥ | \$700,000 | 140 | T. J. Cloutier | A♦ 3♠ |
| 1986 | Berry Johnston | A♠ 10♥ | \$570,000 | 141 | Mike Harthcock | A♦ 8♦ |
| 1987 | Johnny Chan | A♠ 9♠ | \$625,000 | 152 | Frank Henderson | 4♦ 4♠ |
| 1988 | Johnny Chan | J♠ 9♠ | \$700,000 | 167 | Erik Seidel | Q♣ 7♥ |
| 1989 | Phil Hellmuth | 9♠ 9♠ | \$755,000 | 178 | Johnny Chan | A♠ 7♠ |
| 1990 | Mansour Matloubi | 6♥ 6♠ | \$895,000 | 194 | Hans "Tuna" Lund | 4♦ 4♠ |
| 1991 | Brad Daugherty | K♠ J♠ | \$1,000,000 | 215 | Don Holt | 7♥ 3♥ |
| 1992 | Hamid Dastmalchi | 8♥ 4♠ | \$1,000,000 | 201 | Tom Jacobs | J♦ 7♠ |
| 1993 | Jim Bechtel | J♠ 6♥ | \$1,000,000 | 220 | Glenn Cozen | 7♠ 4♦ |
| 1994 | Russ Hamilton | K♠ 8♥ | \$1,000,000 | 268 | Hugh Vincent | 8♠ 5♥ |
| 1995 | Dan Harrington | 9♦ 8♦ | \$1,000,000 | 273 | Howard Goldfarb | A♥ 7♠ |
| 1996 | Huck Seed | 9♦ 8♦ | \$1,000,000 | 295 | Bruce Van Horn | K♠ 8♠ |
| 1997 | Stu Ungar | A♥ 4♠ | \$1,000,000 | 312 | John Strzemp | A♠ 8♠ |
| 1998 | Scotty Nguyen | J♦ 9♠ | \$1,000,000 | 350 | Kevin McBride | Q♥ 10♥ |
| 1999 | Noel Furlong | 5♠ 5♦ | \$1,000,000 | 393 | Alan Goehring | 6♥ 6♠ |
| 2000 | Chris Ferguson | A♠ 9♠ | \$1,500,000 | 512 | T. J. Cloutier | A♦ Q♠ |
| 2001 | Carlos Mortensen | K♠ Q♠ | \$1,500,000 | 613 | Dewey Tomko | A♠ A♥ |
| 2002 | Robert Varkonyi | Q♦ 10♠ | \$2,000,000 | 631 | Julian Gardner | J♠ 8♠ |
| 2003 | Chris Moneymaker | 5♦ 4♠ | \$2,500,000 | 839 | Sam Farha | J♥ 10♦ |
| 2004 | Greg Raymer | 8♠ 8♦ | \$5,000,000 | 2,576 | David Williams | A♥ 4♠ |
| 2005 | Joe Hachem | 7♠ 3♠ | \$7,500,000 | 5,619 | Steve Dannenmann | A♦ 3♠ |
| 2006 | Jamie Gold | Q♠ 9♠ | \$12,000,000 | 8,773 | Paul Wasicka | 10♥ 10♠ |
| 2007 | Jerry Yang | 8♦ 8♠ | \$8,250,000 | 6,358 | Tuan Lam | A♦ Q♦ |
| 2008 | Peter Eastgate | A♦ 5♠ | \$9,152,416 | 6,844 | Ivan Demidov | 4♥ 2♥ |
| 2009 | Joe Cada | 9♦ 9♠ | \$8,547,044 | 6,494 | Darvin Moon | Q♦ J♦ |
| 2010 | Jonathan Duhamel | A♠ J♥ | \$8,944,310 | 7,319 | John Racener | K♦ 8♦ |
| 2011 | Pius Heinz | A♠ K♠ | \$8,715,638 | 6,865 | Martin Stazko | 10♠ 7♠ |
| 2012 | ??? | ??? | \$8,531,853 | 6,598 | ??? | ??? |



MAIN EVENT FINAL TABLES – TOP 25 – WORLD SERIES OF POKER

Below is the list of players who have made multiple Main Event final table appearances. In 2009, Jeff Shulman made his second Main Event final table in a decade. Following is a list of other players who have made the big one multiple times during the WSOP's 43-year history:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>MAIN EVENT CASHES</u> | <u>RANK</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Jesse Alto | 5 | 1 st |
| Doyle Brunson | " | " |
| Johnny Chan | 4 | 3 rd |
| T. J. Cloutier | " | " |
| Dan Harrington | " | " |
| Berry Johnston | " | " |
| Johnny Moss | " | " |
| Stu Ungar | " | " |
| John Bonetti | 3 | 9 th |
| Hamid Dastmalchi | " | " |
| Jack Keller | " | " |
| Al Krux | " | " |
| Steve Lott | " | " |
| Bill Smith | " | " |
| Mickey Appleman | 2 | 15 th |
| Bobby Baldwin | " | " |
| Jim Bechtel | " | " |
| Dave Crunkleton | " | " |
| Brad Daugherty | " | " |
| Fernando Fisdel | " | " |
| "Captain" Tom Franklin | " | " |
| Noel Furlong | " | " |
| Perry Green | " | " |
| Jay Heimowitz | " | " |
| Phil Hellmuth | " | " |
| George Huber | " | " |
| Tom Jacobs | " | " |
| Hans "Tuna" Lund | " | " |
| Mansour Matloubi | " | " |
| Mike Matasow | " | " |
| Donnacha O'Dea | " | " |
| Rod Peate | " | " |
| Brian "Sailor" Roberts | " | " |
| Huck Seed | " | " |
| Erik Seidel | " | " |
| Jeffrey Shulman | " | " |
| Dewey Tomko | " | " |

*Through 2012 WSOP. Only WSOP results count towards this tabulation.



MAIN EVENT CASHES – TOP 25 – WORLD SERIES OF POKER

The World Series of Poker Main Event is clearly the granddaddy of all poker tournaments. We know how hard it is to win it. Getting into the top 10% multiple times is an impressive feat. These players have cashed the most times in the 42-year history of the WSOP Main Event.

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>MAIN EVENT CASHES</u> | <u>RANK</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Berry Johnston | 10 | 1 st |
| Bobby Baldwin | 8 | 2 nd |
| Humberto Brenes | " | " |
| Chris Bjorin | 7 | 4 th |
| Doyle Brunson | " | " |
| Mike Sexton | " | " |
| Jay Heimowitz | " | " |
| Phil Hellmuth | " | " |
| Jason Lester | " | " |
| John Esposito | " | " |
| Johnny Chan | " | " |
| John Bonnetti | 6 | 12 th |
| Steve Lott | " | " |
| Jesse Alto | 5 | 14 th |
| Mickey Appleman | " | " |
| Jim Bechtel | " | " |
| Andrew Brokos | " | " |
| Allen Cunningham | " | " |
| Hamid Dastmalchi | " | " |
| Thor Hansen | " | " |
| Dan Harrington | " | " |
| Peter Hedlund | " | " |
| Mel Judah | " | " |
| Jack Keller | " | " |
| Hans "Tuna" Lund | " | " |
| George McKeever | " | " |
| Johnny Moss | " | " |
| Donnacha O'Dea | " | " |
| Rod Peate | " | " |
| Dewey Tomko | " | " |
| Robert Turner | " | " |
| Mark Wilds | " | " |

Through 2012 WSOP. Only WSOP results count towards this tabulation.

www.wsop.com



It's a Small, Small World Series of Poker

Not just a namesake, the World Series of Poker is just that, gaming's biggest and most prestigious competition of the world's best players. See how different countries have fared at the WSOP Main Event Final Table over the years.

Countries Represented at the Main Event Final Table

| |
|----------------|
| Australia |
| Belize |
| Canada |
| Czech Republic |
| Denmark |
| France |
| Germany |
| Hungary |
| Iran |
| Ireland |
| Italy |
| Norway |
| Russia |
| South Africa |
| Spain |
| Sweden |
| Ukraine |
| USA |

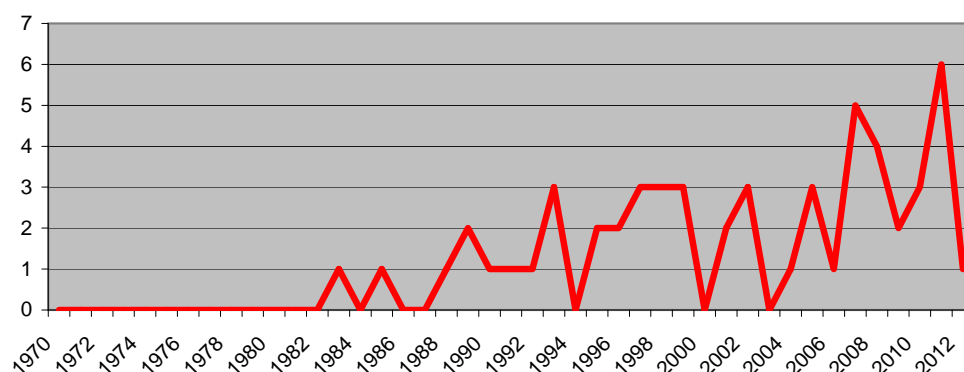
Main Event FT Participants Since 1970

| |
|-----------|
| 40 Non-US |
| 335 US |

Most Non-US Main Event Final Tables Appearances

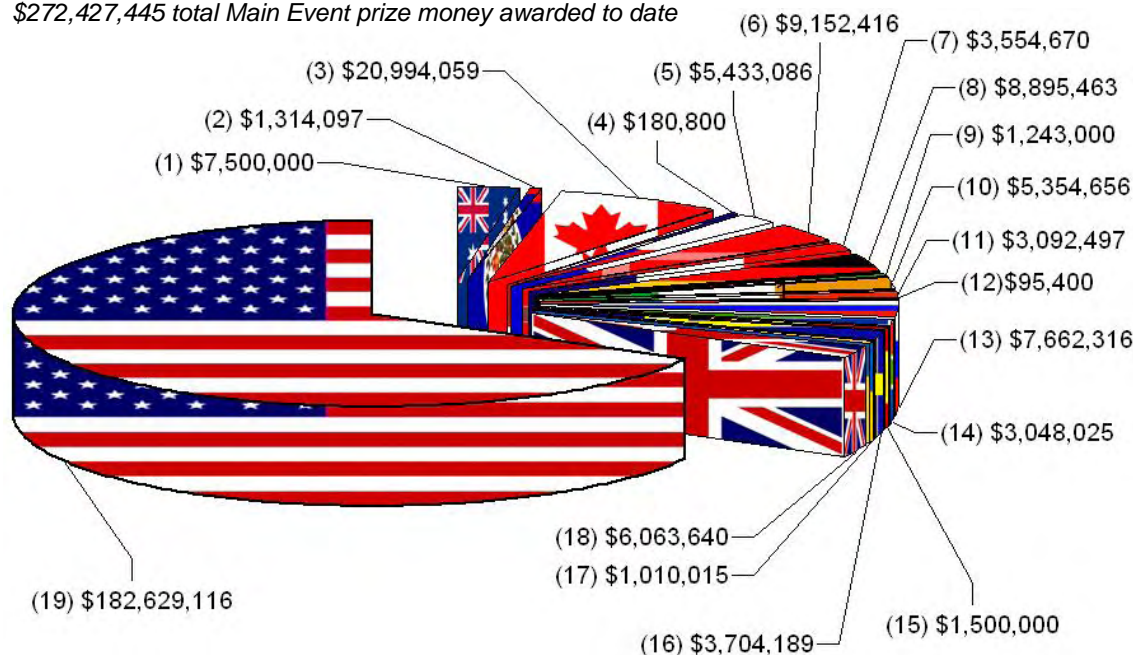
| | |
|---------|---|
| UK | 8 |
| Ireland | 8 |
| Canada | 4 |
| France | 2 |
| Germany | 2 |
| Russia | 2 |
| Denmark | 2 |
| Sweden | 2 |

Non-US Main Event Final Table Participants 1970-2012



All-Time Main Event Final Table Payout Distribution

\$272,427,445 total Main Event prize money awarded to date



- (1) Australia
- (2) Belize
- (3) Canada
- (4) Costa Rica
- (5) Czech Republic
- (6) Denmark
- (7) France
- (8) Germany
- (9) Iran
- (10) Ireland
- (11) Italy
- (12) Norway
- (13) Russia
- (14) South Africa
- (15) Spain
- (16) Sweden
- (17) Ukraine
- (18) United Kingdom
- (19) United States



All(most)-American Final Table

This year's Main Event Final table boasts the most Americans since 2006, with Andras Koroknai being the only player who hails from outside of the US. Seven different states are represented at this year's Final Table. See how the states have fared at the WSOP Main Event Final Table over the years.

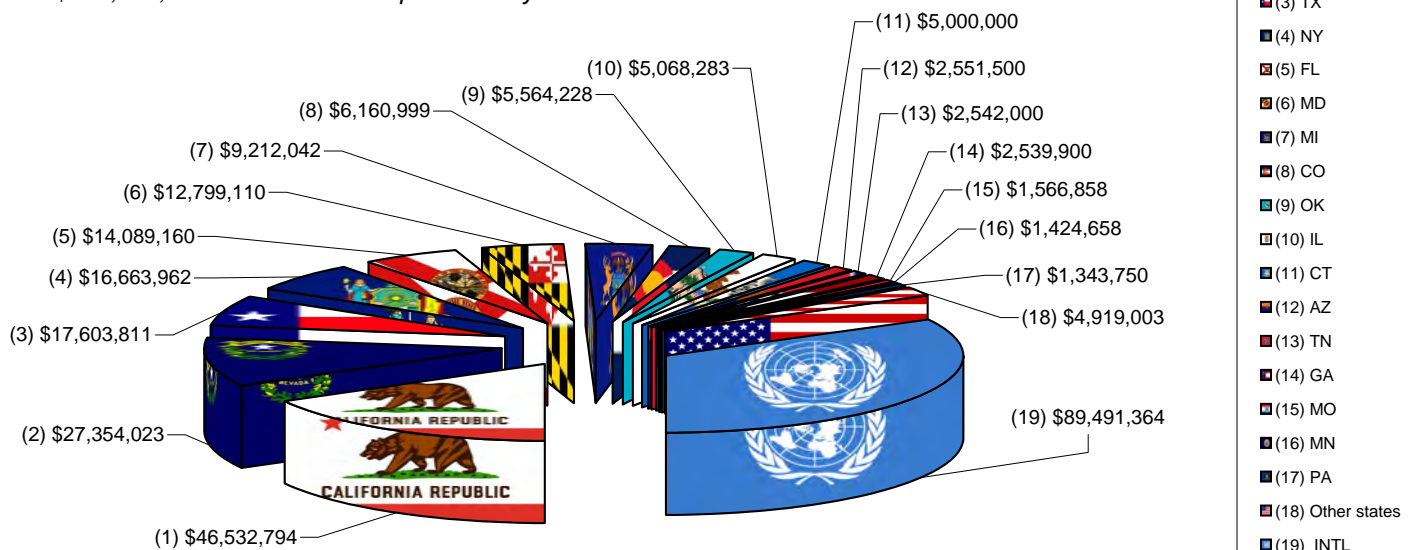
| Most Main Event FT Appearances by State | |
|---|----|
| NV | 65 |
| TX | 50 |
| CA | 43 |
| NY | 20 |
| FL | 10 |

| Most Main Event Championships by State | |
|--|----|
| NV | 12 |
| TX | 7 |
| INTERNATIONAL | 7 |
| CA | 6 |
| NY | 3 |
| MI | 2 |
| VT | 1 |
| TN | 1 |
| OK | 1 |
| CT | 1 |
| AZ | 1 |

| US States Yet to be Represented at the Main Event FT | |
|--|----------------|
| Alabama | Maine |
| Kentucky | Montana |
| Hawaii | North Dakota |
| Arkansas | Rhode Island |
| Delaware | South Carolina |
| Idaho | South Dakota |
| Iowa | Utah |
| Kansas | Wyoming |
| Louisiana | |

All-time Main Event FT Payout Distribution by State

\$272,427,445 total Main Event prize money awarded to date





HOW \$8.5 MILLION STACKS UP

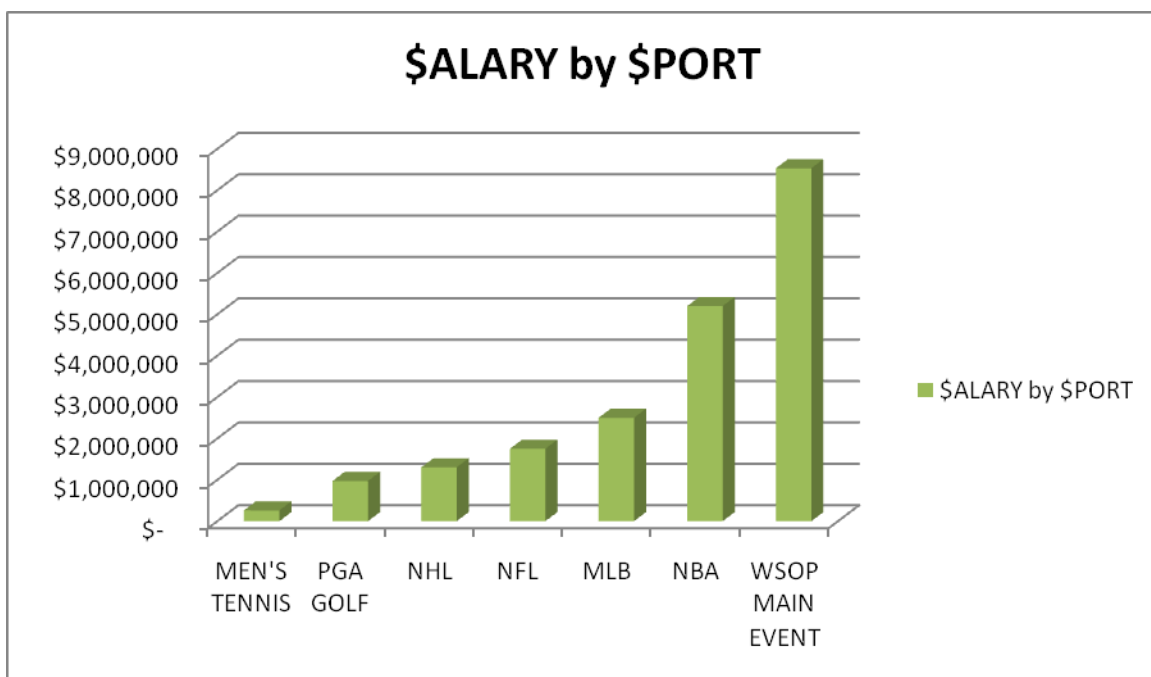
VERSUS OTHER PROFESSIONAL SPORTS SALARIES

Whoever wins the 2012 World Series of Poker Main Event won't just net the WSOP gold bracelet valued at \$150,000 on its own. He will also take home \$8,531,853.

Here is how the WSOP Main Event winner compensation compares to other pro sports:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| NBA Average Salary: | \$5.2 million |
| MLB Average Salary: | \$2.5 million |
| NFL Average Salary: | \$1.75 million |
| NHL Average Salary: | \$1.3 million |
| PGA Average Salary: | \$973,000 |
| Men's Tennis Average Salary: | \$260,000 |

Thus, the 2012 WSOP Main Event champion will take home more than the average NBA and MLB player does combined. In fact, the WSOP Main Event champion will earn more than the average Men's Tennis, PGA Tour, NHL, NFL and MLB player combined!



*Source: <http://www.statisticbrain.com/professional-sports-average-salary-revenue-salary-cap/>



EVENT SNAPSHOT - 2012 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

| | |
|--|---|
| Bracelet Events: | 61 |
| Total Prize Pool: | \$222,045,377 |
| # of Total Entries: | 74,766 |
| # of Total Cashers: | 7,973 |
| # of Main Event Entries: | 6,598 |
| Largest Non-Main Event Field: | 4,620 (Event #59) |
| Largest Prize Pool: | \$62,031,385 (Event #61) |
| Largest 1st Place Prize: | \$18,346,673 (Event #55) |
| # of Participating Countries: | 101 |
| Bracelet Winners From: | United States (45) Canada (3) Germany (2) Belgium (1) Bulgaria (1) Czech Republic (1) France (1) Great Britain (1) Italy (1) Japan (1) Netherlands (1) Russia (1) Ukraine (1) |
| Multiple Bracelet Winners: | None (1 st time in 13 years) |
| Event Dates: | May 27, 2012 – July 16, 2012 October 29-30, 2012; Main Event Final Table |
| Event Location: | Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada |

www.WSOP.com





Poker Hall of Fame Announces Class of 2012

Eric Drache & Brian “Sailor” Roberts Join Poker’s Most Exclusive Club

Induction Ceremony to be held Tuesday, October 30 at 3:30 pm in Rio’s Penn & Teller Theater as part of World Series of Poker® Main Event Final Table Festivities

LAS VEGAS (October 18, 2012) – Eric Drache and Brian “Sailor” Roberts will become the 43rd and 44th individuals to be inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame. The two were nominated by the public and voted in by a 36-person panel made up of existing Poker Hall of Famers and members of the media, it was announced today by the Poker Hall of Fame Governing Council.

Drache and Roberts will be inducted officially on **Tuesday, October 30 at 3:30 pm** at the Rio All-Suite® Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas prior to the finale of the 2012 World Series of Poker Main Event.

The special induction ceremony and celebration will take place in the lobby of the Penn & Teller Theatre in the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino.

Roberts, who passed away in 1995, was part of poker’s old guard of Texas Road Gamblers along with fellow Hall of Famers Doyle Brunson and Amarillo Slim.

Drache, has contributed in a variety of ways to the game of poker over the past thirty years – including originally coming up with the idea to create the Poker Hall of Fame. But his legacy likely will be the creation of “satellite” events – a series of smaller buy-in events that instead of awarding money, award seats into larger buy-in events. This Drache-creation greatly expanded the ability for players to enter events, thus increasing player pools and their bankrolls.

“I’m not only surprised and honored to have been selected, I’m also a bit embarrassed considering the other nominees,” said the humble Drache. “When Jack Binion and myself worked on creating the Hall of Fame, I never considered myself a potential candidate. I’m particularly happy for the family of Sailor Roberts. Sailor by everyone’s account, including my own personal observations, was a great player and played many games very well.”

Current Hall of Famer Crandell Addington on behalf of Sailor Roberts: “In a time fifty years ago when poker players relied on luck, Sailor was developing sophisticated strategies that would enable him to make his own luck,” said Addington. “At a time in which professional poker players were viewed as outlaws and poker was illegal, he formed a partnership with Doyle and Slim and they traveled across the country from poker game to poker game. They deployed advanced strategies unknown at the time that featured playing their opponents hands on many occasions rather than their own hands. More often than not, they got the money.”

The Poker Hall of Fame Governing Council would sincerely like to congratulate the other 2012 finalists all whom remain eligible for future induction: Chris Bjorin, David Chiu, Thor Hansen, George Hardie, Jennifer Harman-Traniello, John Juanda, Tom McEvoy and Scotty Nguyen.

About this year's inductees:

It is impossible to single out one facet of Eric Drache's poker career that stands out above the rest, for he is a man who has worn many hats over the years. An accomplished Seven Card Stud player, Drache made five WSOP final tables over the course of his career, finishing in the top three every time. In addition to a poker playing career spanning more than three decades, Drache also left his mark on the WSOP by serving as the event's tournament director from 1973-1988. During that time, Drache came up with the concept of satellite events, forever changing the tournament poker landscape. In his role as the card room manager of casinos like SilverBird, Mirage, and the Golden Nugget, he also helped to build up the Las Vegas poker scene. Most recently, Drache had a hand in the television poker boom, serving as a consultant on numerous poker productions.

To anyone who knew him, Brian "Sailor" Roberts was truly one of the 'good guys' of the game. Along with his poker skill, Roberts' wit, charm and reputable integrity served him well in cementing his place as one of poker's legends. A gambler at his very core, the 1975 WSOP Main Event champion grew up in the small town of San Angelo, TX where at age 12 he made his first winnings shooting dice while working as a caddie. After serving in the Navy during the Korean War, Roberts returned home to Texas, where he met Doyle Brunson and Amarillo Slim. The three travelled throughout the south and Midwest in search of poker games and became known as the famous "Texas Rounders," whose exploits have been romanticized over the years in both film and literature. A pillar of poker's old guard, Roberts was beloved by his fellow gamblers. The two-time WSOP champion also finished eighth in the 1982 WSOP Main Event won by fellow Hall of Famer Jack "Treetop" Strauss. Roberts passed away in 1995.

The Poker Hall of Fame, established in 1979, was acquired by Harrah's Entertainment (now Caesars) along with the World Series of Poker in 2004. Though the Hall of Fame is virtual in nature, its membership includes poker's most influential players and other important contributors to the game. There are now 19 living members.

The main criteria for the Poker Hall of Fame are as follows:

- A player must have played poker against acknowledged top competition
- Be a minimum of 40 years old at time of nomination
- Played for high stakes
- Played consistently well, gaining the respect of peers
- Stood the test of time
- Or, for non-players, contributed to the overall growth and success of the game of poker, with indelible positive and lasting results.

The entire list of 44 Poker Hall of Fame members includes (alphabetical with year of induction in parenthesis):

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| ○ Tom Abdo (1982) | ○ Doyle Brunson (1988) | ○ Barry Greenstein (2011) |
| ○ Crandell Addington (2005) | ○ Johnny Chan (2002) | ○ Dan Harrington (2010) |
| ○ Bobby Baldwin (2003) | ○ T.J. Cloutier (2006) | ○ Murph Harrold (1984) |
| ○ Billy Baxter (2006) | ○ Nick Dandalos (1979) | ○ Phil Hellmuth (2007) |
| ○ Lyle Berman (2002) | ○ Eric Drache (2012) | ○ James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok (1979) |
| ○ Joe Bernstein (1983) | ○ Barbara Enright (2007) | ○ Red Hodges (1985) |
| ○ Benny Binion (1990) | ○ Fred "Sarge" Ferris (1989) | ○ Edmond Hoyle (1979) |
| ○ Jack Binion (2005) | ○ T "Blondie" Forbes (1980) | ○ Linda Johnson (2011) |
| ○ Bill Boyd (1981) | ○ Henry Green (1986) | |

- Berry Johnston (2004)
- Jack Keller (1993)
- Felton McCorquodale (1979)
- Roger Moore (1997)
- Johnny Moss (1979)
- Henry Orenstein (2008)
- Walter Clyde "Puggy" Pearson (1987)
- Julius Oral Popwell (1996)
- Thomas Austin "Amarillo Slim" Preston (1992)
- David "Chip" Reese (1991)
- Brian "Sailor" Roberts (2012)
- Erik Seidel (2010)
- Mike Sexton (2009)
- Jack "Treetop" Straus (1988)
- Duane "Dewey" Tomko (2008)
- Stu "The Kid" Ungar (2001)
- Red Winn (1979)
- Sid Wyman (1979)

For more information on the Poker Hall of Fame, visit www.WSOP.com/phof

ABOUT THE POKER HALL OF FAME

The Poker Hall of Fame, established in 1979, was acquired by Harrah's Entertainment along with the World Series of Poker in 2004. Though the Hall of Fame is virtual in nature, its membership includes poker's most influential players and other important contributors to the game. There are now 19 living members, and 44 members have been bestowed the honor of Poker Hall of Famer. The Poker Hall of Fame traditionally elects one or two members annually. The enshrinement ceremony is now held in concert with the final table of the Main Event of the WSOP, held each Fall in Las Vegas.

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ABOUT THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER (WSOP)

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) is the longest-running, largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world, dating back 43 years to 1970, and having paid more than \$1.6 billion in total prize money to date. In 2012, the WSOP featured 61 different poker events over 50 consecutive days.

At the 43rd Annual WSOP, the event attracted 74,766 participants from 101 countries around the globe to the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas – all competing for the game's most coveted prize...a WSOP bracelet and a share of more than \$222 million in total prize money.

Featuring a comprehensive slate of tournaments in every major poker variation, the WSOP is poker's longest running set of tournaments. The World Series of Poker culminates with the \$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Championship, commonly referred to as the Main Event.

The winner of each event gets a World Series of Poker gold bracelet –recognized globally as the game's highest honor – and a cash prize based on the number of entrants and the amount of the event buy-in. The prize pool for the past six years (\$1.11 billion) is double the total prize pool of the first 37 years of the WSOP combined (\$530 million).

Buy-ins for the different events range from \$500 to \$1,000,000 depending on the event and, unlike other sporting events, anyone 21 years of age or older can enter, and anyone can win. Winning a WSOP tournament is a life-changing event, making instant stars and often instant millionaires out of those with a dream and the determination to outmaneuver and outlast the competition.

Caesars Entertainment acquired the WSOP in 2004, and participation in the event has grown exponentially under its tenure. Here's how the last decade has looked:

| Year | # of Entrants | Total Prize Money Awarded |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2003 | 7,572 | \$21,789,060 |
| 2004 | 14,054 | \$45,973,770 |
| 2005 | 32,341 | \$106,055,907 |
| 2006 | 48,366 | \$159,616,588 |
| 2007 | 54,288 | \$159,796,918 |
| 2008 | 58,720 | \$180,774,427 |
| 2009 | 60,875 | \$174,013,215 |
| 2010 | 72,966 | \$187,109,850 |
| 2011 | 75,672 | \$192,008,868 |
| 2012 | 74,766 | \$222,045,377 |

The WSOP team has forged groundbreaking alliances in broadcasting, digital media, corporate sponsorship, social media applications and licensing while successfully extending the brand internationally, with the advent of the World Series of Poker Europe in 2007 and the forthcoming WSOP Asia-Pacific in 2013. ESPN is the exclusive U.S. telecast partner of the WSOP. WSOP programming airs in 84 countries on five continents and is available to 300 million households.



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