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MSPT

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DECEMBER 2017



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Meskwaki Casino
Tama, IA
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Max Havlish

BREAKS THROUGH TO WIN MSPT MESKWAKI FOR \$90,152

JASON BEASLEY
WINS DENVER
POKER OPEN

MSPT
HEADS TO
JACK CLEVELAND

POKER PLAYER
& WINE ENTHUSIAST
BRIAN REINERT

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VICTORIOUS AT
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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

UPCOMING EVENTS



Season 8 Finale
Canterbury Park
Shakopee, MN
December 1-10, 2017

**\$200,000
GUARANTEED!**



Regional \$350 buy-in
Tropicana Evansville
Evansville, IN
January 13-21, 2018

**\$100,000
GUARANTEED!**



Cleveland Poker Open
JACK Cleveland Casino
Cleveland, OH
January 20-28, 2018

**\$200,000
GUARANTEED!**



Poker Bowl II
The Venetian
Las Vegas, NV
February 1-3, 2018

**\$500,000
GUARANTEED!**

**Final Table for most MSPT main events will be broadcast LIVE
with hole cards on MSPTPOKER.com**

** For full schedule of Satellites and Main Events, visit:*

WWW.MSPTPOKER.COM

**Management reserves the right to alter or cancel promotion/tournament at any time*

Letter from the Editor

KIMO SABE MEZCAL SEASON 8 POY RACE COMING DOWN TO WIRE

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

By the time you read this, we'll either be heading into the last event of the season or Season 8 will be in the books. No matter the case, we guarantee that the Kimo Sabe Mezcal Player of the Year race came down to the wire and wasn't determined until the season finale at Canterbury Park.

As we write this, 2017 MSPT Michigan State Poker Champion Chris Meyers is in the lead with 3,350 points thanks not only to his victory, but also for finishing fifth in the MSPT FireKeepers back in the spring.

Assuming at least 1,500 points will be awarded to the winner of the final stop, 13 players are still in contention for the title including Keith Heine (2,967 points), Mike Shanahan (2,700 points), Max Havlish (2,600), and both Keith Block and Ahmed Taleb, who are both tied in fifth place with 2,500 points.

The 2017 Top 25 Kimo Sabe Mezcal POY players (as of Nov. 30) are listed on Page 7 of this issue.

Among those with an outside chance of winning it are underdogs like "Big" Al Hedin (2,100), Dapreesch Scates (2,100), and Jason Bender (1,950). Hedin is a relative newcomer to the MSPT and is in contention thanks to two final table appearances. Back in July, he placed sixth in the MSPT Meskwaki for \$18,465, and less than a month later he finished runner-up to Satish Thakur in the 2017 MSPT Indiana State Poker Championship for \$43,864.

Whoever wins will take home a great prize package (read about that later in the magazine) and will make the cover in a future issue MSPT Magazine.



Al Hedin, Chris Meyers and Jason Bender



Vol. 2/No. 12

President and Publisher

Bryan Mileski
Bryan@msptpoker.com

Editor-in-Chief

Chad Holloway
Chad@msptpoker.com

Art Director

Carolyn Borgen
Carolyn@msptpoker.com

Advertising Information

Chad@msptpoker.com

Story Ideas

Chad@msptpoker.com

Our Mission

MSPT Magazine is a monthly magazine dedicated to serving poker players and gaming facilities through MSPT news, results, tournament schedules, player profiles and professional tips. Coupled with our website, msptpoker.com, we are the Nation's #1 Poker Tour.

Mid-States Poker Tour

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MID-STATES POKER TOUR

Nov. 30 - Dec. 10, 2017

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\$1,100 Main Event

1-A: Friday, Dec 8 • 4:00 PM

1-B: Saturday, Dec 9 • 4:00 PM

Day-2: Sunday, Dec 10 • 11:00 AM

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December 1 - 9

\$65 Super Satellites

Nov. 30 - Dec. 5

\$50K CHEAP & DEEP

January 2018

GREAT MN FREEZE OUT

January 2018

MN STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

February/March 2018

RACEBOOK OPEN DAILY

Event Preview

MSPT VISITS OHIO FOR FIRST TIME W/ \$1,100 MAIN EVENT AT JACK CLEVELAND CASINO JAN. 20-28

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

The MSPT is excited to announce JACK Cleveland Casino as the newest stop for our upcoming ninth season!

From January 20-28, the MSPT will be at the beautiful downtown Cleveland casino for the first \$1,100 Main Event of the season. A series of satellites will feed into the MSPT JACK Cleveland Main Event, which will feature a \$200,000 guarantee, be live reported in the MSPT Blog, and offer three starting flights from January 25-28.

Day 1A will kick off at Noon local time on Thursday, January 25. Flights 1B and 1C will then be held at the same time on Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27 respectively. The surviving players from each flight will then return at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 28 to play down to a winner.

We've worked out rates for as little as \$99 per night with several downtown Cleveland hotels. Visit msptpoker.com for more information.

JACK Cleveland Casino, which is open 24/7 and requires players be 21+ to play, is a 300,000-square-foot complex—96,000 square feet are dedicated to gaming including slot machines, table games, and poker—the property is located inside the historic Higbee Building on Public Square, which is adjacent to the city's entertainment district.

The casino, which is within minutes of Quicken Loans Arena, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and FirstEnergy Stadium, offers 1,600 slots with denominations from 1 cent all the way up to \$500 per spin, as well as nearly 100 table games including Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, and several poker variants. In addition, poker players can grind it out in the 30-table poker room, which hosts games (hold'em, Omaha, 7-Card Stud, and Razz are all offered) around the clock.

While you're at JACK Cleveland, you can choose from

several dining options including a buffet restaurant, three quick-serve food outlets, and three feature bars. In addition, Boston-based burger-chain, Wahlburgers, is located in retail space adjacent to the casino parking structure.

Speaking of those three casino bars, they all offer premium spirits, cocktails, beers and wines. Additionally, Rock Bar & Lounge offers 35 flat-screen TVs and the area's only electronic table games.

In its first three years, JACK Cleveland Casino welcomed more than 13 million guests, booked nearly 100,000 room nights at partner hotels, and redeemed more than \$4.4 million in meals at partner restaurants. It has truly established itself as one of the Midwest's premiere gaming destinations, and we're excited for the MSPT's first-ever visit to Ohio!

About JACK Entertainment

JACK Entertainment is a Midwest-based urban gaming company focused on the development and operation of gaming facilities that are designed to maximize connectivity and economic impact in the local areas where they reside. Dan Gilbert, chairman of JACK Entertainment, is also majority owner of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and AHL's Cleveland Monsters, and chairman and founder of Quicken Loans Inc. Nearly 5,000 Ohioans are employed through Gilbert's business interests.

JACK Entertainment also owns JACK Cincinnati Casino, Greektown Casino-Hotel in Detroit, JACK Thistledown Racino, a thoroughbred racetrack with video lottery terminals in North Randall, Ohio, and Turfway Park, a premier thoroughbred horse racing track located in northern Kentucky.

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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Standings as of November 30, 2017

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Chris Meyers	3,350
2	Keith Heine	2,967
3	Mike Shanahan	2,700
4	Max Havlish	2,600
5	Keith Block	2,500
	Ahmed Taleb	2,500
7	Jason Ramos	2,250
8	Altaf Motiwala	2,200
9	Al Hedin	2,100
	Dapreesch Scates	2,100
11	Osama Aweida	2,017
12	Nadar Kakhmazov	2,000
13	Jason Bender	1,950
14	Brayden Gazlay	1,800
15	Richard Bai	1,700
	Carter Myers	1,700
	Satish Thakur	1,700
	Aaron Massey	1,700
	Maury Solano	1,700
	Brian Reinert	1,700
	Jordan Young	1,700
	Millard Hale	1,700
23	Loki Abboud	1,683
24	Rob WazWaz	1,667
25	Jonathan Kim	1,650



Chris Meyers - Buffalo, NY

♣All players who cash in a MSPT event are ranked for Player of the Year points. At the end of the calendar year, the top-ranked player will receive POY recognition, four MSPT \$1,100 Main Event buy-ins, \$250 toward a satellite or Main Event at every MSPT event the following season (max \$4,250), as well as a \$1,100 Main Event seat with \$400 travel to Venetian Mid-Season Championship - over \$10,000 value

♣MSPT Player of the Year points are awarded based on the total prizepool of the tournament

♣For more POY information, including how points are awarded, and to follow the race in 2017, visit www.msptpoker.com/pages/poy



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MSPT stats page at
msptpoker.com

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Get To Know 'em

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES AND MELANOMA DIAGNOSIS DON'T HOLD BACK WINE ENTHUSIAST AND POKER PLAYER BRIAN REINERT

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

In 2012, Georgia's Brian Reinert found himself at the final table of a World Series of Poker Circuit Bicycle Casino \$345 no-limit hold'em event. During three-handed play, the recreational cash game player was two outed and had to settle for \$7,325 in prize money. It wasn't the result he wanted, but it was one that changed his life.

"I only played cash games with a couple exceptions starting in 2012," he says. "Prior to that, I didn't understand playing every day for 10+ hours and not making any money. I'd rather play cash, but after getting two outed, I got the tournament bug."

Since then, Reinert has amassed \$551,344 in lifetime earnings including two WSOP Circuit rings and \$182,853 for finishing third in the 2014 World Poker Tour bestbet Jacksonville Bounty Scramble.

"It was a pretty awesome experience playing on TV, against the best in the country," Reinert says of event. "I really gained a lot of confidence that I could play at that level."



Brian Reinert

Brian Reinert

No Wine-ing About Poker

Facing cold Michigan winters and being subject to four older brothers growing up, card games became a way of life in the Reinert family. When he was 12, he moved to California, and six years later, he put his knowledge to use by both playing poker and hosting a game on the weekends. Before long, he took up seven-card stud in local card rooms, which is really where he cut his chops.

For two decades, Brian Reinert worked in corporate management while playing poker on the side. After some success on the felt, the father of three, and grandfather of two, left his job to not only play more poker, but to start his own business—Reinert Wine Consulting.

“We produce The Reinert Project Wines and we broker other supplier’s wines to retailers here in the US,” says Reinert. “We sell about 120,000 cases a year. I also produce the Reinert Project wines out of Napa and Monterey California. My cabernet is called ‘ALL IN’ and all my labels are poker themed with a poker chip and card suits on label.”

While Reinert had some recent poker success, which you’ll read about below, he didn’t fare so well in California not long ago.

“The vineyard where I buy my Cabernet fruit from for The Reinert Project on Atlas Peak in Napa was destroyed by wild-fires,” he reveals. “The 2017 will be the last year from that source. Luckily the fruit had already been harvested just a few weeks prior to the fires so at least we didn’t lose the vintage.”

Health Scare

During the first week of this year’s World Series of Poker, Reinert discovered a mark on his chest. He went to a doctor, and a biopsy revealed he had melanoma. A week later, he had the first of what ended up being three surgeries.

“I’ve had every organ and every inch of my body checked and it had not spread,” he says. “Hopefully it’s all behind me, but I will have blood work and skin tests every three months for next couple years to ensure it doesn’t reappear. I learned a valuable lesson not to let things just go without having them checked out.”

As a result, Reinert found himself missing the WSOP and unable to play tournament poker for many months. Then, in October, Reinert was in Michigan launching his wine when he saw the Mid-States Poker Tour was hosting the 2017 MSPT Michigan State Poker Championship at nearby FireKeepers Casino.

Reinert opted to make the trip over from Detroit, and he ended up being a part of the largest poker tournament ever held in Michigan history with 1,067 entries. Reinert made it to



the final table and competed for large chunks of the \$1,033,490 prize pool.

Unfortunately for Reinert, he got short in Level 30 (50,000/100,000/10,000) and three-bet all in for 1.21 million from the button with the $K\spadesuit J\spadesuit$ after Millard Hale had raised to 225,000 from the cutoff with what turned out to be the $K\heartsuit Q\heartsuit$. Reinert had a kicker problem, and it didn’t get resolved as the board ran out $7\heartsuit 4\clubsuit K\heartsuit A\heartsuit 2\heartsuit$.

Reinert took home \$38,239 for finishing in sixth place, while Hale went on to finish runner-up to Chris Meyers for \$117,818.

“I will play more,” Reinert says of the tour. “The low rake is attractive, you have great turnouts, and I love to travel to play in places I haven’t been before. I’ve played all over the world, places like Prague, Dublin, and South America, and that keeps poker exciting. I love to travel for both business and poker.”

To keep atop Reinert’s business and poker exploits, follow him on Twitter @BrianReinert1



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MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of November 30, 2017

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Nadar Kakhmazov	\$395,888
2	Thomas Boivin	\$352,153
3	Carl Carodenuto	\$347,283
4	Aaron Massey	\$335,633
5	Richard Alsup	\$333,421
6	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
7	Peixin Liu	\$315,830
8	Mukul Pahuja	\$304,491
9	Blake Bohn	\$284,063
10	Jeremy Dresch	\$272,741
11	Jason Zarlenga	\$272,194
12	Kou Vang	\$241,330
13	Mike Shanahan	\$239,157
14	Chris Meyers	\$235,904
15	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
16	Richard Bai	\$220,539
17	Keith Heine	\$220,019
18	Travis Lauson	\$216,934
19	Maury Solano	\$209,244
20	John Hayes	\$206,648
21	Hao "John" Sun	\$201,718
22	Andrew Rubinberg	\$201,218
23	Keven Stammen	\$199,635
24	Brett Blackwood	\$199,508
25	Thupten Thondup	\$198,015
26	David Gonia	\$184,253
27	Mark Sandness	\$181,373
28	Jonathan Kim	\$181,055
29	Nick Jivkov	\$180,202
30	Matt Kirby	\$176,265
31	Dan Hendrickson	\$172,403
32	Drake Bronk	\$171,889
33	Dan Sun	\$170,588
34	Bill Rogers	\$170,206
35	David Mowery (WI)	\$169,837
36	David Lee (TN)	\$166,822
37	Rodger Johnson	\$161,260
38	Josh Reichard	\$160,771
39	Jacob Balsiger	\$157,169
40	Ryan Hartmann	\$157,058
41	Daniel Goepel	\$153,311
42	Jason Mirza	\$152,443
43	Michael Rudolph	\$147,122
44	Kentraylus Pates	\$144,905
45	Jason Ramos	\$144,392
46	Harry Tisdale	\$142,637
47	Mark Hodge	\$141,484
48	Alex Aqel	\$138,385
49	Rob WazWaz	\$137,490
50	Matt Alexander	\$137,222



Nadar Kakhmazov - Russia

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Event Recap

MAX HAVLISH BREAKS THROUGH TO WIN MSPT MESKWAKI FOR \$90,152

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

The last MSPT Season 8 stop at Meskwaki Casino in Tama, Iowa drew 424 entries, and after an action-packed weekend, 30-year-old Max Havlish had his breakthrough win to walk away with a \$90,152 top prize.

“I feel great,” Havlish said after the win. “It’s about time. I’ve been working hard at it for a long time, so it’s nice to finally take one down.”

Prior to the win, Havlish had just one MSPT cash when he finished ninth out of 3,273 entries in the MSPT Venetian for \$41,698.

“I was happy to get ninth in Vegas, I was happy how I played, but it was nice to redeem myself,” admitted Havlish, who works but plays poker on the side. As for the prize money, he revealed that he and his girlfriend will be taking a vacation.

“She’ll be the decider as to where we go,” he said when asked where they’d go.

Day 2 saw 83 players return to action, but with only 45 of them slated to get paid, nearly half the field would leave empty handed. Among them were former champs Keith Heine, Ahmad Taleb, and Kou Vang; as well as World Series of Poker bracelet winner John Reading and bubble boy Chris Durant.

Among those to earn a payday but fall short of the final table were Nik Stone (43rd - \$2,254), MSPT Season 7 Player of the Year Rich Alsup (33rd - \$2,459), World Poker Tour champ Kevin “BeL0WaB0Ve” Saul (30th - \$2,459), Day 1B chip leader Dale Berger (18th - \$4,508), Brian Reinert (14th - \$5,327), Day 1A chip leader Lee Douglas (12th - \$6,555), and final table bubble boy Tom Hammers (11th - \$6,555).

At the final table, MSPT Season 5 Ho-Chunk champ Jason Sell was the first to go after shoving with king-queen and running into the ace-queen of fellow MSPT champ Dan “DQ” Hendrickson, who won the MSPT Season 6 Canterbury Park finale.

After a short-stacked Roger Bennett bowed out



Max Havlish

in ninth place, another former MSPT champ hit the rail. MSPT Season 5 Running Aces winner Ken Pates moved all in for less than ten bigs with pocket threes and Victor Hoffman decided to race holding king-queen in the big blind. A lady on the flop was a fat one, and she sang to put an end to Pates’ run in eighth place.

A short time later, Havlish doubled with pocket jacks through Al Carpenter, who held eights. Carpenter was left short and then shoved with king-seven suited only to run into jacks again, this time those of John “Farmboy” Kurfman. Carpenter wound up missing a flush draw and hit the rail in seventh place.

Meskwaki Casino

Hendrickson, the last MSPT champ left in the field, was then the victim of a cooler when he picked up kings only to run them smack dab into the aces of Jon Hanner. The chips went in preflop, both players flopped sets, and Hendrickson, nicknamed “DQ” for his Dairy Queen franchises, had to settle for sixth place.

The final five battled for quite some time, and Hoffman seemed to get the better of Kurfman time and again. Eventually the man known as “Farmboy” shoved with king-nine only to get called by Havlish, who held Big Slick. The board ran out clean and Kurfman was sent out the door in fifth place.

The next three eliminations came pretty quickly. First to go was John Rausch, who tried to bluff the river against Havlish, who held two pair. Hanner then fell when he got it in preflop with ace-jack against Havlish’s pocket sixes. Hanner paired his jack on the three-spade flop, but Havlish, who had the only spade, made a flush on the turn.

That allowed Havlish to take a nearly 8-1 chip lead into heads-up play against Hoffman. After a few hands, Havlish shoved the button with pocket sixes and Hoffman called off with threes. No trey appeared and Hoffman had to settle for second place and a \$55,730 consolation prize.

For the win, Havlish earned 1,500 points on the Kimo Sabe Mezcal MSPT Season 8 Player of the Year leaderboard. Along



Meskwaki Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 424 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Max Havlish	Coon Rapids, MN	\$90,152
2	Victor Hoffman	Onslow, IA	\$55,730
3	Jon Hanner	St. Paul, MN	\$40,568
4	John Rausch	Cedar Falls, IA	\$29,914
5	John Kurfman	Baylis, IL	\$22,538
6	Dan Hendrickson	Faribault, MN	\$17,211
7	Albert Carpenter	Waterloo, IA	\$13,523
8	Kentraylus Pates	Brooklyn Park, MN	\$10,654
9	Roger Bennett	Kirkville, MO	\$7,786
10	Jason Sell	Plymouth, MN	\$6,555

with the 1,100 he earned in Vegas, that gave him 2,600 points and put him in fourth place with only three stops left in the year.

“I’ll see you at Milwaukee and Canterbury,” he said. “I might have to fight for POY.”

Congratulations to Max Havlish, winner of the MSPT Meskwaki! 🍀



Final Table

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Event Preview

SEASON 9 OF MSPT KICKS OFF WITH \$350 REGIONAL EVENT AT BRAND NEW TROPICANA EVANSVILLE CASINO

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

The first event of the New Year, which marks the start of the MSPT's 9th Season, will take place from January 13-21 at Tropicana Evansville in southern Indiana. A series of satellites will feed into a \$350 buy-in, \$100,000 guaranteed Regional Event, which will feature three starting flights from January 18-21.

"We're very excited to kick off our new season with a Regional Event at Tropicana Evansville," said MSPT President Bryan Mileski. "This will mark the first MSPT event at the property since they moved from a riverboat to their brand new land-based casino. We're confident our players are going to love what they find."

For nearly 22 years, Tropicana Evansville operated as Indiana's first riverboat casino, and now they've become the first to transition to a land-based casino with their new 75,000 square-foot facility.

The Regional Event will feature three starting flights beginning with Day 1A at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18. Day 1B will take place at the same time on Friday, January 19, while Day 1C will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 20. The surviving players from each flight will then return for Day 2 at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 21 to play down to a winner.

The Regional Events were introduced in January 2015 to offer recreational players an affordable opportunity to play our lauded "Chainsaw Approved" structure. The only differences from our \$1,100 Main Event, which play fourteen 40-minute levels on Day 1, is that Regional Events flights play sixteen levels and last 30 minutes each.

The MSPT first visited Tropicana Evansville for a Regional Event back in 2016 when Adam Thomas topped a field of 416 entries to win \$30,674. In Season 8, Jason Gwinn walked away with a \$35,443 first-place prize after coming out on top of a 511-entry field. That massive turnout more than tripled the \$50K guarantee, which is why we've decided to offer a six-figure GTD in January. In addition, the event will be held in a much larger space, the Walnut Room, which holds 15 tables rather than the 10 previously available in the old poker room area. This will eliminate alternates and allow for quicker entry for late arrivals into the tournament.

More recently in August 2017, an \$1,100 buy-in MSPT Main Event, which was the 2017 MSPT Indiana State Poker Championship, drew 320 entries and saw Satish Thakur claim the title and \$71,047 top prize.

Tropicana Evansville is a multi-million-dollar entertainment complex located on the scenic banks of the Ohio River in southwestern Indiana. The single-level 24-hour casino, which opened on October 20, 2017, encompasses 45,000 square feet of gaming space featuring 1,175 slot games, 33 table games, a dedicated Poker Room and a High Limit Room. Accommodations include a 243-room hotel tower and a 95-room boutique hotel. The property showcases an ultramodern entertainment lounge, five dining options, five bars, gift shop, conference center, riverfront pavilion and a 1,660-vehicle attached parking garage.

To view the upcoming schedule, structures or lodging details for this event, visit msptpoker.com.



2018 Season 9 Preview

MSPT SCHEDULE FOR 2018 INCLUDES FIRST-TIME VISIT TO JACK CLEVELAND, EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS AND A \$500K GTD SEASON 9 FINALE

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

Season 8 of the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) proved to be a record-breaking affair setting several state records across the country. However, with the New Year approaching, we're looking ahead to Season 9, which is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet.

In 2018, we're excited to announce new stops—one of which we can confirm is JACK Cleveland from January 20-28—as well as expanded relationships with both The Venetian in Las Vegas and Canterbury Park.

The new season kicks off in January with a \$350 Regional Event at Tropicana Evansville (\$100K GTD Main Event January 18-21, 2018), which will mark our first event at their new land-based casino. One week later, we'll hold our first-ever \$1,100 event in Ohio when we visit JACK Cleveland Casino (\$200K GTD Main Event January 25-28, 2018). Both of those events are previewed in this issue.

From there, we'll head to The Venetian in Las Vegas for the "Poker Bowl II" during NFL Super Bowl weekend, February 1-3, 2018. Speaking of The Venetian, we'll once again host our popular \$1,100 Main Event in early June, but we've

also joined forces with them to offer four other events next summer with buy-ins of \$1,600, \$3,500, \$5,000 and \$10,000. All of the final tables from those events will be live streamed on the MSPT's RFID table. We'll also be holding an \$1,100 Main Event at The Venetian in September.

We've also expanded our relationship with Minnesota's Canterbury Park, home to the first-ever MSPT event back in December 2009. In 2018, we'll host five tournaments at the card room including a \$350 Regional Event and four \$1,100 Main Events. In December, we'll actually hold our Season 9 finale at Canterbury Park, and for the first time ever it will feature a massive \$500,000 guarantee.

Of course, that's all in addition to our regular stops at such places as Meskwaki Casino (Tama, IA), Potawatomi Hotel & Casino (Milwaukee, WI), Golden Gates Casino (Black Hawk, CO), FireKeepers Casino (Battle Creek, MI), and Grand Falls Casino (near Sioux Falls, SD).

For a full look at the MSPT schedule, as well as any stops that may be added, be sure to visit msptpoker.com regularly.



The Venetian Casino, Las Vegas

2018 Season 9 Preview

MSPT SEASON 9 SCHEDULE

Tropicana Evansville (IN)

\$350 Regional (\$100K GTD) Jan. 13-21

JACK Cleveland Casino (OH)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$200K GTD) Jan. 20-28

Poker Bowl II at The Venetian Las Vegas (NV)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$500K GTD) Feb. 1-3

Canterbury Park (MN)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Feb. 17-25

Meskwaki Casino (IA)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) March 17-25

Potawatomi Casino (WI)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Mar. 31 – Apr. 8

Golden Gates Casino (CO)

\$360 Regional (\$100K GTD) Apr. 5-8

Golden Gates Casino (CO)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$200K GTD) Apr. 12-15

New Stop To Be Announced

Apr. 14-22

Canterbury Park (MN)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Apr. 21-29

Grand Falls Casino (SD)

\$350 Regional (\$50K GTD) Apr. 28 – May 6

FireKeepers Casino (MI)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) May 12-20

Summer 2018 – 5 MSPT The Venetian (NV) Events

(buy-ins \$1,100, \$1,600, \$3,500, \$5K and \$10K)

Potawatomi Casino (WI)

\$350 Regional (\$100K GTD) July 14-22

Meskwaki Casino (IA)

(\$300K GTD) July 21-29

Canterbury Park (MN)

\$350 Regional (\$100K GTD) Aug. 4-12

Tropicana Evansville (IN)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$250K GTD) Aug. 11-19

Grand Falls Casino (SD)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$150K GTD) Aug. 18-26

The Venetian (NV) September Event

Details/Dates TBD

Canterbury Park (MN)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Sep. 8-16

FireKeepers Casino (MI)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Oct. 6-14

Meskwaki Casino (IA)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Oct. 27 – Nov. 4

Golden Gates Casino (CO)

\$360 Regional (\$100K GTD) Nov. 1-4

Golden Gates Casino (CO)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$200K GTD) Nov. 8-11

Potawatomi Casino (WI)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$300K GTD) Nov. 10-18

Canterbury Park (MN)

\$1,100 Main Event (\$500K GTD) Dec. 1-9



Canterbury Park

Regional Recap

GERALD MORRELL WINS MSPT \$360 REGIONAL AT GOLDEN GATES, BESTING A FIELD OF 848

BY BRANDON TEMPLE

The MSPT \$360 Regional Event held at Golden Gates Casino in Black Hawk, Colorado (just outside Denver) November 2-5, drew 848 entries (234 on Day 1A, 262 1B, and 352 1C) over three starting flights. Saturday's Flight 1C with 352 runners was the largest field ever for a single flight in any event at Golden Gates Casino.

On Sunday, the surviving 121 players returned to play down to a winner, and after a six-way chop (chops are only allowed at MSPT Regionals), it was Gerald Morrell of Reno, Nevada who walked away the lion's share of the chop and a \$33,677 first-place prize. The first place payout was scheduled to be \$50,880.

"It always feels good to run good and win some money and this trophy," said Morrell, referencing the Regional Trophy he was awarded. "Me and a buddy played the tournament, and decided if we shipped it, we're golfing in Hawaii."

That golf trip looks to be fully paid for with this healthy score.

The win was Morrell's first MSPT cash. Prior to the score, he had \$92,867 in tournament earnings including a cash in this summer's World Series of Poker Millionaire Maker for \$5,003.

"The MSPT did a fantastic job, it was a good tournament," said Morrell, referencing the phenomenal staff at the Golden Gates Poker Room. "I appreciated everything."

The top 81 players cashed the event including Kevin "1\$ickDisease\$E" Eyster (18th - \$2,544), Spring Golden Gates Regional champ Corey Zedo (30th - \$1,119), WSOP Colossus II champ Ben Keeline (57th - \$814), and last year's Fall Golden Gates Regional champ "Money" Mike Maruna (75th - \$712).

The tournament marked the 21st MSPT Regional Event ever held, and the sixth hosted by Golden Gates. 🍀



Gerald Morrell



Golden Gates Casino

Buy-in: \$360 ♣️ 848 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Gerald Morrell	Reno, NV	\$33,677
2	Jacob Schroeder	Aurora, CO	\$26,078
3	Mitchell Lekarczyk	Denver, CO	\$24,042
4	Eric Maier	Littleton, CO	\$21,019
5	Mike Colecchia	Aurora, CO	\$20,333
6	Ryan Dodson	Centennial, CO	\$19,842
7	Jamal Sawaqdeh	Aurora, CO	\$7,632
8	William Black	Cheyenne, WY	\$5,851
9	Ralph Kingan	Wright, WY	\$4,579
10	Sung Bae	Aurora, CO	\$3,791



Final Table

Denver Poker Open Recap

JASON BEASLEY WINS 2017 MSPT DENVER POKER OPEN AT GOLDEN GATES CASINO FOR \$88,134

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

The 2017 MSPT Denver Poker Open at Golden Gates Casino in Black Hawk, Colorado saw 413 entrants pony up the \$1,100 buy-in to compete in the tour's third-to-last event of the season.

On late Sunday night, 38-year-old roofing salesman and part-time poker player Jason Beasley, originally from Oregon but now residing in Denver, came out on top to win an \$88,134 first-place prize.

"I feel good," said Beasley, who has a 19-year-old daughter and helps raise his two-year-old granddaughter. "It's a little bit different rush from cash games. This is my biggest win. My dad has been a leather-ass grinder for over 40 years. He was watching the live stream back in Oregon."

The win marked Beasley's first MSPT cash, though he had \$159,358 in tournament winnings before the win. That included a previous best of \$66,820 for winning the 2005 Fall Poker Round Up in Pendleton, Oregon.

Day 2 saw 78 players return to action, but only 45 of them would get paid. Among those to leave empty handed were Las Vegas poker pro Tim West, MSPT Season 3 Running Aces champ Rodger Johnson, and MSPT Season 7 Golden Gates Regional winner "Money" Mike Maruna, just to name a few.

After Eric Maier exited as the bubble boy in 46th place, the result of his Big Slick failed to hold against Nils Bardsley's queen-seven, the in-the-money finishes came quick. They included recent World Series of Poker Circuit Harvey's Lake Tahoe Main Event winner Max Young (45th - \$2,303), MSPT Golden Gates Regional Champ Gerald Morrell (36th - \$2,404), start-of-the-day chip leader Jay Daignault (26th - \$2,804), MSPT Season 6 Golden Gates Regional champ Bobby Sanoubane (18th - \$4,407), and 2016 MSPT Michigan State Poker



Jason Beasley



Golden Gates Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 413 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Jason Beasley	Denver, CO	\$88,134
2	Mike Monetti	Littleton, CO	\$54,483
3	Jon Wurden	Fisher, MN	\$39,660
4	Gerald Cunniff	St. Paul, MN	\$29,245
5	Cooper Wanty	Ann Arbor, MI	\$22,034
6	Terry Wheeler	Denver, CO	\$16,823
7	Will Mietz	Black Hawk, CO	\$13,220
8	Bruce Russell	Loveland, CO	\$10,416
9	Nils Bardsley	Denver, CO	\$7,612
10	Andrew Geffen	Westminster, CO	\$6,410

Champ Brett Blackwood (11th - \$6,410).

At the final table, Andrew Geffen was the first to fall after jamming queen-ten suited smack dab into Cooper Wanty's aces. Not long after, Nils Bardsley first lost sixes into nines, and then busted in ninth place after running fours into fives.

Bruce Russell followed them out the door in eighth place after flopping trip jacks only to discover he had an inferior kicker to Mike Monetti, and Will Mietz was hot on his heels after getting it in with queens against Monetti's kings.

From there, Mike Wheeler fell in sixth place when his pocket eights failed to hold against Beasley's Big Slick, and then Wanty bowed out in fifth after he got his short stack in with six-three suited and failing to get there against Monetti's queen-deuce.

The elimination of Gerald Cunniff in fourth place, the result of his king-two of spades not improving against Monetti's ace-seven of spades, and Jon Wurden in third, he missed an open-ended straight draw, set up a heads-up match between Monetti and Beasley.

Monetti started with more chips, but the lead would change hands several times before things came to a head in Level 31 (60,000/120,000/20,000). Long story short, it happened when Monetti flopped an open-ended straight draw and Beasley got sticky with ace-king suited. Monetti bluffed the river, which was an ace, and Beasley picked him off. 🍀



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Strategy presented by Jonathan Little

ACTION FLOP IN FIRST HAND OF HEADS-UP PLAY IN MSPT MICHIGAN STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

In the first hand of heads-up play in the 2017 MSPT Michigan State Poker Championship at FireKeepers Casino—a tournament that drew a state record 1,067 entries—Chris Meyers (14 million—116 bb) and Millard Hale (7.3 million—61 bb) played an interesting hand.

The blinds were 60,000/120,000/20,000 when Hale looked down at the A♠A♣ on the button and raised to 275,000. Hale defended from the big blind with the K♥7♥ and the flop came down a mouthwatering 10♣A♥9♥.

Hale checked his flush draw, Meyers bet 350,000 with top set, and Hale just called to see the 8♦. Hale, who picked up an open-ended straight draw, checked and Meyers opted to check behind. The K♣ river gave Hale a pair, and he checked to Meyers, who bet 875,000. Hale didn't pay it off and instead folded his hand.

We consulted Jonathan Little of PokerCoaching.com to breakdown the hand.

MSPT Magazine: *A lot of inexperienced players would get it in either on this flop or turn. Many would certainly play it different than Hale did. What are your thoughts on how he played?*

Little: I am fine with the way Hale played his hand. Suited kings are great hands to call with from out of position and given he has some showdown value with his king-high, he should not opt to raise. If he raises, he is never getting an ace to fold and will have to likely fire all three barrels to get a 10 or 9 to fold.

In general, when the board should be good for your opponent's raising range (as most ace-high boards are), your raising range should be quite narrow because it is unlikely that your opponent will fold too often. Hale may also think that Meyers is checking back on this somewhat coordinated flop with many of his marginal made hands, meaning when he bets, he may be a bit more polarized than normal, leading him to have fewer 10s and 9s in his range.

What do you make of Meyers' check on the turn? What could/should he have done differently in your opinion?

Little: I would have certainly continued betting. There are numerous worse hands that can continue calling and there

are many draws you would like to protect against. If Meyers happens to get check-raised all-in, it isn't a disaster because top set is either always the best made hand or the best drawing hand, which isn't a bad place to be.

Hale caught a little piece of it on the river but laid it down when his opponent bet. What do you make of this?

Little: The main questions you have to ask when you get to the river in this manner are if Meyers will bet the turn with most of his aces and if he will bet the turn with most of his draws. If he will check behind with his aces on the turn, calling the river with a king becomes a bit optimistic.

If he will usually bet the turn with his draws, it means when he checks behind, he often doesn't have draws. This means he usually has either total garbage or a showdown value hand. On the river, many players would not value bet a 10 or 9, meaning if Meyers is at the river and value betting, it is usually with an ace or a king, both of which Hale loses to for the most part.

The somewhat large river bet size is also a concern. In general, as your opponent bets larger, you have to defend with a smaller portion of your range, allowing Hale to make a few more folds than normal. While I would have made the crying call with the king most of the time, I don't think the fold is too out of line. 🍵



Chris Meyers



Millard Hale



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