



MSPT

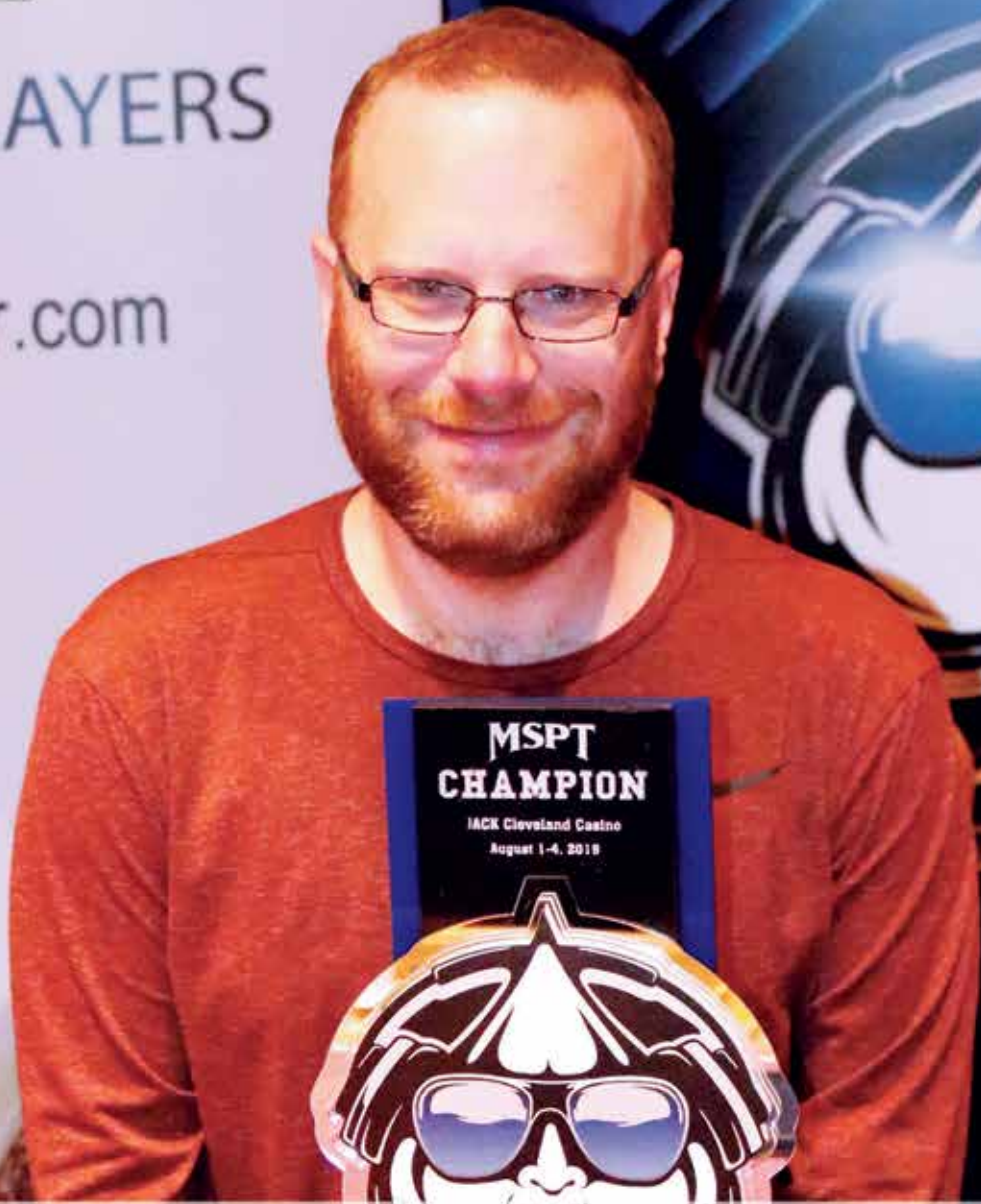
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

NATION'S #1
POKER TOUR

SEPTEMBER 2019

FOR PLAYERS

sptpoker.com



MSPT
CHAMPION

JACK Cleveland Casino
August 1-4, 2019

Adam Friedman

WINS MSPT JACK CLEVELAND FOR \$121,405

JOSH MEYER
2019 IOWA
STATE CHAMP

JOEL GILMORE
POTAWATOMI
CHAMP

ALAN AHMANN
WINS AT
CANTERBURY

MSPT-STRATEGY:
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GTO LIFE
SHAKOPEE &
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BINGO CASINO HOTEL

Letter From the Publisher

MAJESTIC STAR CASINO TO GET MASSIVE MAKEOVER WITH GLOBAL, ICONIC BRAND

DETAILS, PHOTO AND ARTICLE PROVIDED BY CHICAGOCRUSADE.COM

Hard Rock International, one of the world’s iconic global brands will transform the Majestic Star Casino in Gary’s Buffington Harbor into a \$400 million casino and entertainment complex. It will be rebranded as the Hard Rock Gary Casino.

The new complex will open in 2022 adjacent to the Borman Expressway at Burr Street and 29th Avenue. In addition to a Hard Rock casino, it will include a Hard Rock Café, a Hard Rock Live concert venue, restaurants, and bars on 40 acres.

The Hard Rock Casino will have up to 2,764 gaming positions, according to a news release. The Majestic Star’s boats currently combine to hold 1,620 slot machines and 63 table games.

The casino will employ approximately 2,000 workers, more than double the 800 current employees at the two Majestic Star casino boats, which Spectacle purchased in March.

“We’re confident this \$400 million investment will serve as a significant catalyst for the continued economic revitalization of northwest Indiana and the City of Gary,” Spectacle Entertainment CEO Rod Ratcliff said in the release.

Jim Allen, Hard Rock International Chairman and CEO, said “Hard Rock is excited to partner with Spectacle Entertainment to create the first land-based gaming destination, bringing our world-class brand of entertainment to Northwest Indiana and the greater Chicago area.”

“A brand like Hard Rock International is indeed transforming for gaming in Gary and Northwest Indiana, but more importantly, the Hard Rock supports the economic development vision for our city, the region and Buffington Harbor,” said Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. 🇺🇸



Rendering of Hard Rock Casino in Gary



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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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Event Recap

JOSH MEYER VICTORIOUS AS YOUR 2019 IOWA STATE POKER CHAMPION AT MESKWAKI CASINO

BY MSPT STAFF

It was a grueling battle that lasted until about 1A.M. Monday morning but Des Moines' Josh Meyer found himself as the last player standing to claim the 2019 MSPT Iowa State Poker Championship winning his first-ever MSPT title at Meskwaki Casino in Tama, Iowa.

Day 1A was incredibly deep with all three MSPT Hall of Famers (Aaron Johnson, Richard Alsup and Kou Vang) in the house along with multiple past winners like Ken Komberec, Taylor Howard, Brian Soja and Steve Federspiel. The fun didn't stop as current Player of the Year points leader Mike Shin joined the party along with Rob Wazwaz, TJ Ryan, Mark Hodge, Ryan Tepen, Alex Winter and WSOP bracelet winter John.

Jovan Sudar of Omaha, NE claimed the chip lead for Day 1A with 346,500 which eventually led the entire field into Day 2. Jason Seitz climbed to 317,000. The remainder of the top five on Day 1A included Hao "John" Sun (270,000), Jon Hanner (266,000) and Steve Wazwaz (259,500). Keith Heine (124,000) and Dan Sun (115,000) also escaped Day 1A along with Mike Shin who would look to add to his POY point total bagging 60,000 chips. For the flight, 21 players advanced out 164 entries.

Ryan Tepen and Dave Soderstrom dominated most of Day 1B and bagged the largest stacks as Level 15 ended. WSOP bracelet winner Grant Hinkle was also putting his incredible poker skills on display but ran into a little trouble late conceding the chip lead to Tepen and Soderstrom. Tepen managed to put away 305,000 which was good for third overall in the tournament and Soderstrom wound up with 276,500.

Henry Gingerich was third with 231,000, Grant Hinkle finished at 197,500 and Taylor Howard closed out the top five with 189,000. Aaron Johnson, Brian Soja, Steve Federspiel, Ken Komberec, Ahmed Talib, David Gonia, Ryan Skluzak and TJ Ryan missed the cut. Mark Hodge also fell short of his



Josh Meyer

quest for his final cash to make the MSPT Hall of Fame and will have to wait one more event. The flight added another 237 entries with 33 players advancing taking the meaning 54 players would advance to Sunday's Day 2 out 401 entries easily clearing the tournament's \$300,000 guarantee.

The 2019 MSPT Iowa State Poker Championship returned to action on Day 2 just nine players short of the money and it didn't take long before Tim Garles took a brutal four-flush against Timothy Murphy to burst the bubble and send the tournament into a frenzy as the stretch run toward the title got underway. Shortly afterward, Mike Shin was knocked out in 40th place putting more points in his pocket as he continued to pile onto his Season 10 Player of the Year lead.

The most critical run of the tournament before the final table took place when Josh Meyer's jacks cracked Jason Seitz's kings on the river vaulting Meyer up to 500,000. Meyer then took out David Steger with kings against Steger's jacks. He then quickly busted Timothy Murphy, Howard and Seitz to build a massive 2,300,000 chip stack on the road to the final table.

When we reached the final ten players, here were the chip counts:

- Seat 1: William Reynolds - 40,000
- Seat 2: James Kasputis - 495,000
- Seat 3: Matt Riedesel - 360,000
- Seat 4: Jesse Bowman - 925,000
- Seat 5: Jonathan Hanner - 1,180,000
- Seat 6: Ryan Tepen - 500,000
- Seat 7: Yanni Orfanos - 265,000
- Seat 8: Josh Meyer - 2,690,000
- Seat 9: Jovan Subar - 100,000
- Seat 10: Steve Wazwaz - 1,475,000

The chase was on to catch Meyer and it started off with a bang as Steve Wazwaz caught a four on the river to make two pair taking out Iowa's all-time leading career money winner William Reynolds in 10th place (\$6,200) and James Kasputis in 9th place (\$7,362). Shortly after that, Jovan Sudar had a set of jacks fall victim to a rivered straight by Yanni Orfanos to get eliminated in 8th place (\$10,074) taking the field down to seven. In rapid-fire fashion, Wazwaz then ended Ryan Tepen's tournament run with his kings holding against Tepen's A-Q knocking the two-time WSOP Circuit Event ring winner

Meskwaki Casino

out in 7th place (\$12,787).

Yanni Orfanos was the next to fall in 6th place (\$16,274) at the hands of Jon Hanner putting Hanner over the million chip mark. Then Jesse Bowman managed to crack Josh Meyer's kings by rivering a flush to clear the million chip mark as well, putting a dent in the former chip leader's stack and closing the gap. Hanner unfortunately had his stack whittled back down and was put away in 5th place (\$21,311) after running into Jesse Bowman's aces. Bowman then continued his hot streak wiping out Matthew Riedesel with a set of queens making Riedesel the tournament's 4th place finisher (\$28,285).

At this point, the tide had completely turned from Meyer and Wazwaz leading the way to Bowman now holding over half the chips in play three-handed. Bowman continued to be the dominant force at the table for nearly an hour before Wazwaz managed to have an all-in bet with second pair hold up against Bowman's nut flush draw. At his peak in the duel with Meyer and Bowman, Wazwaz reached 5,400,000 chips and looked well on his way to securing the title.

As play went deeper in the Iowa night, Bowman caught a straight to crack Wazwaz's two pair. Then Meyer had his tens hold against Bowman's flopped pair of nines and the road to the championship began to take another twist. Meyer then doubled on an A-5-K-A-K board with him holding an ace and Wazwaz showing a king giving him a bigger boat and thrusting Meyer back in the tournament. With all this action going on, Jesse Bowman tried to steal one away from Wazwaz going all-in and hitting a pair of tens on the turn but Wazwaz rivering a flush to end Bowman's run in 3rd place (\$38,360) and sending he and Meyer into heads-up play. Wazwaz would lead holding 4,910,000 to 3,120,000 as the two would face off for the MSPT title.

Heads-up play started at 11 P.M. and nearly no progress was made for an hour and a half as the duo traded small pots feeling each other out trying to find a way to break through. There was some excitement around 12:30 AM right before a break when both players caught a nine-high straight but wound up in an anti-climactic chop to send the evenly matched duel further into the morning.

With the blinds at 150,000/300,000 and the fatigue starting to take its toll on the two players who had been grinding away for over fourteen hours, Meyer had now managed to take a slight edge. Meyer moved all-in pre-flop and was quickly called by Wazwaz. Meyer held [Th Ts] against the [Kh Js] of Wazwaz. The flop came out [9h Ac 7s] giving no help to Wazwaz. The turn brought the [9s] which left Meyer pacing in circles saying "One card from an MSPT title." The [3s] hit the river and Meyer found himself able to celebrate the victory taking home the championship and \$85,241. Steve Wazwaz



Meskwaki Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 401 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Josh Meyer	Des Moines, IA	\$85,241
2	Steve Wazwaz	Brooklyn Park, MN	\$52,696
3	Jesse Bowman	Moline, IL	\$38,360
4	Matthew Riedesel	Davenport, IA	\$28,285
5	Jon Hanner	St. Paul, MN	\$21,311
6	Yanni Orfanos	Park Ridge, IL	\$16,274
7	Ryan Tepen	Bowling Green, MO	\$12,787
8	Jovan Sudar	Omaha, NE	\$10,074
9	James Kasputis	Rockford, IL	\$7,362
10	William Reynolds	Las Vegas, NV	\$6,200

finished as the runner-up scoring \$52,696 for his outstanding effort.

After the tournament, Meyer was incredibly grateful for the victory. "This is just amazing. I feel like I'm dreaming. I've been playing for a decade and I know how rare it is to get to a final table let alone win one so twenty years from now I'll be able to say I'm an MSPT champ," Meyer said.

The final table played out into Meyer's style of play, "I play a ton of six-handed play online—cash and tournaments — they're my favorite and I'm very comfortable so the way the table played out was great."

When asked how he'll spend the money Meyer responded, "I'm pretty sure I'm going to be paying off my wife's student loans and I just got a new car so some of it will be going there, the rest will probably go into a savings account. I'm an actuary by trade so I'm pretty boring." 🤖



Final Table



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Event Recap

JOEL GILMORE VICTORIOUS AT MSPT POTAWATOMI CASINO REGIONAL MAIN EVENT

BY MSPT STAFF



Joe Gilmore

The sixth-ever MSPT \$350 Regional Event held at Potawatomi Casino in Milwaukee, WI attracted 1,567 entrants, and it was Rio, Wisconsin's Joel Gilmore pocketing \$75,430 and 633 Player of the Year points for the win!

For Gilmore, this was his second MSPT Regional cash, the prior was a 20th place finish for \$3,707 in the same event last year. Gilmore survived Day 1B with 232,000 chips, that was good for 14th of the 70 survivors from that flight to advance to Sunday's Day 2.

The final table included Dennis Siem and Joel Alpert who were both earning their first MSPT cash, placing second and third respectively. For Colin Lovelock, this was his 5th career MSPT cash and first in a Regional Event. His 4th place finish collected him \$26,567 bringing his MSPT career earnings to \$71,781.

Thursday's Day 1A flight drew 394 entrants, but only 52 of them made it through, including chip leader Colin Lovelock (425,000). On 1B, 536 hit the felt, with 70 of them advancing. George Aldrich of Cudahy, WI bagged the largest stack with 577,000.



Potawatomi Casino

Buy-in: \$350 ♣ 1,567 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Joel Gilmore	Rio, WI	\$75,430
2	Dennis Siem	Mosinee, WI	\$46,380
3	Joel Alpert	Lake Forest, IL	\$35,123
4	Colin Lovelock	Cottingham, England	\$26,567
5	Derrick Brown	Mount Clemens, MI	\$20,263
6	Eric Douglas	Chicago, IL	\$15,310
7	Ben Rock	Marshfield, WI	\$12,158
8	Daniel Kuntz	Lake Zurich, IL	\$9,456
9	Francisco Roman	Woodstock, IL	\$7,655
10	Anthony Nardi	Verona, WI	\$5,854

Friday's third and final flight drew an additional 637 runners, bringing the total field up to 1,567, and Roman Pobayev bagged the 1C chip lead with 526,500 to lead the 96 survivors of the day. Entering Sunday's Day 2, 218 remained but only 171 would get paid.

Some of those players that found their way into the money included MSPT Main Event and Regional Event Champion TJ Ryan (23rd - \$2,927), MSPT Champ and current Season 10 Player of the Year Leader Mike Shin (30th - \$1,801), 2018 MSPT Potawatomi Regional Runner-up Travis Sweet (35th - \$1,801), previous MSPT Potawatomi Casino Regional Champ Craig Trost (48th - \$1,261).



Final Table



WHEN YOUR CHIP STACK STARTS TO LOOK LIKE A SMALL CITY.

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canterburypark.com

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

MSPT \$300K GUARANTEED

SEPTEMBER 12 - 15

\$1,100 MSPT MAIN EVENT

- Day 1A – Thursday, Sept. 12 – Noon
- Day 1B – Friday, Sept. 13 – Noon
- Day 1C – Saturday, Sept. 14 – Noon
- Day-2 – Sunday, Sept. 15 – 11:00 AM

***Seating is limited – max 20 available tables (200 seats)
– then alternates 40-minute levels*

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FALL POKER CLASSIC
October 4 - 20

MSPT - \$500K GUARANTEE
December 5-8 • \$1,100 Buy-in

Live Racing:
Now - September 14

Event Recap

ALAN AHMANN PREVAILS AT CANTERBURY PARK OUTLASTING 1,015 ENTRANTS IN THE \$350 BUY-IN EVENT

BY MSPT STAFF



Alan Ahmann



Canterbury Park
Buy-in: \$350 ♠ 1,015 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Alan Ahmann	Marshall, MN	\$48,015*
2	Saad Ghanem	Bloomington, MN	\$40,000*
3	Michael OBrien	Chaska, MN	\$25,021
4	Steven Ringstrom	Chanhassen, MN	\$18,545
5	Paul Kelly	Albert Lea, MN	\$14,130
6	Bridgette Field	Shakopee, MN	\$10,892
7	Matthew Hamilton	Minneapolis, MN	\$8,537
8	Joseph Cervo	Shakopee, MN	\$6,476
9	Paul Cross	Minneapolis, MN	\$5,299
10	Yale Bernadotte	Eagan, MN	\$4,121

*denotes chop amount

The third-ever MSPT \$350 Regional Event held at Canterbury Park attracted 1,015 entrants, and it was Marshall, MN's Alan Ahmann who walked away victorious after a heads up chop that netted him \$48,015 – first place was scheduled to pay \$54,458!

For Ahmann, this was his third all-time MSPT cash. The prior two came way back in 2014 and 2010 where he finished 26th and 4th. He survived Day 1B's flight with a 200K stack, 5th of the 21 survivors on that day.

The final table included Saad Ghanem who was the 2018 & 2016 MNPokerMag Player of the Year, the only two-time winner of that award. Ghanem's runner-up finish pocketed him \$40,000 after securing a deal with Ahmann. Amazingly, Ghanem chopped this exact event 3-ways one year prior for \$39,542.

Another gentleman making back-to-back-to-back final tables in this \$350 Regional at Canterbury Park was Paul Cross. Cross was part of that even 3-way deal in 2018 and placed 9th here for \$5,299. He won this event in 2017 for \$61,911!

Wednesday's Day 1A flight drew 206 entrants, but only 28 of them made it through, included chip leader Paul Cross (491,000). On 1B, 178 hit the felt, with 21 of them advancing. Loki Abboud won a mammoth pot late with 5-2 eliminating multiple opponents, bagging a hefty 583,500 stack.

Friday's Day 1C drew an additional 224 runners, bringing the total field up to 608, and Wayne Layne bagged the overall chip lead with 616,000 to lead the 24 survivors of the day. The fourth and final flight saw a single flight \$350 Regional record at Canterbury Park of 407 entrants take their shot, and Vernon Smith left the Day 1D chip leader (478,500) over the 62 survivors.

Some of those players that found their way into the money included Howard Hankin (11th - \$4,121), DJ Buckley (14th - \$3,532), Loki Abboud (17th - \$2,885), MSPT Champ Tom Stambaugh (57th - \$824), MSPT Champ Dan "DQ" Hendrickson (60th - \$824), Rob Wazwaz (63rd - \$824), Season 5 MSPT Main Event Champion Jason Sell (82nd - \$706).



Final Table

CONGRATULATIONS

2019 SDSPC CHAMPION

Sergio Mireles

\$60,946
TOP PRIZE WINNER



2019 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE POKER CHAMPION



SILVERADO FRANKLIN

GTO LIFE SHAKOPEE / LAS VEGAS

BY BEN VALDER

There has been a lot of talk recently by MSPT players about GTO play on the felt, but not near enough attention has been paid to the GTO life off of it. \$9 drinks eight minutes before a \$2 happy hour, \$19 Fiji water from the mini bar when it's "only" \$4.99 just outside, gas station sushi, 8-deck blackjack, and showers at the Rio... when will it end?

The good news is that MSPT is here to help. Without further ado, we present GTO Life Shakopee / Las Vegas!

Our first tournament stop for the month of September is at my home card room and inaugural MSPT location Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minnesota. During Prohibition, Shakopee was a place where Twin Cities' residents retreated for underground bars, widespread gambling, and thick steaks. This reputation earned the city the nickname "Little Chicago." Canterbury pays homage to this history with their newest restaurant bearing the same name.

The flex play here is definitely "THE 21ST AMENDMENT," a bone-in 21oz. ribeye that is worth every penny. If you're looking for something a little lighter or a great side, you can't go wrong with the brussel sprouts with bacon and blue cheese.

Canterbury also hosts one of the best live thoroughbred horse racing tracks in the country and has some of the biggest limit hold'em / mixed games east of the Bellagio.

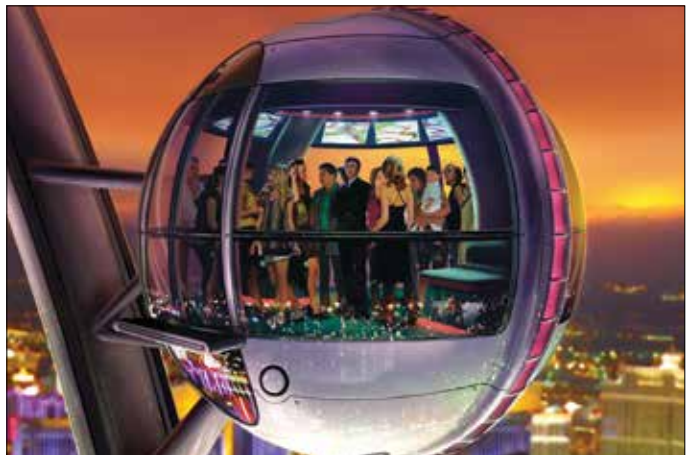
For those of you that would like to venture out of the card club but not go too far away, I would highly recommend The Muddy Cow. Located a stone's throw from Canterbury, they feature 2-4-1's all day every day, as well as pool, darts, music, and enough free warm cheese balls to help you get over even the worst of bad beats.

For our next September stop, we head to the beautiful Venetian Las Vegas recently ranked 16th in business Insider's list of Top 50 Casinos in America. This gorgeous property has 159 table games, 1,247 slot machines, replica canals, and 25-foot marble columns in its lobby that were imported from Italy.

The GTO life play at The Venetian is 100% The Dorsey. Stop in early and try their signature drink "The Penicillin," identified by The New York Times as one of the eleven essential drinks of the modern cocktail revival. Stop by later in the night and experience live curated music by renowned DJs who spin old school classics as well as newer tunes that fit the vibe.



Canterbury Park's Little Chicago



High Roller

If you are looking to get some fresh air out of the casinos while in Vegas you might as well breathe it as high up as possible. Technically part of The Linq hotel, the "High Roller" observation wheel soars 550 feet in the air showcasing sweeping 360-degree views of the Las Vegas Valley and The Strip. To make this incredible experience completely GTO, go after the sun sets and upgrade your views with a "Happy Half Hour" ticket, which includes one 30-minute rotation with an in-cabin open bar and bartender to serve up the fun. Make sure to flash them your diamond Total Rewards card on your way up to receive half off of your ticket.

Hopefully you've found something new to try while out on tour. I look forward to hearing your reviews, and wish you all the very best of luck on the tables and off. 🍀

Event Recap

THIRD FINAL TABLE THE CHARM: ADAM FRIEDMAN WINS MSPT JACK CLEVELAND FOR \$121,405

BY MSPT STAFF



Adam Friedman

Ohio poker pro Adam Friedman has had some great success during Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) events at JACK Cleveland Casino. When the MSPT first visited Cleveland for a \$1,100 Main Event back in January 2018, Friedman finished third out of 581 runners for \$52,976.

This past January, he once again placed third, this time out of 725 entrants, for an additional \$63,293, and over the weekend he was not only at the final table again, but managed to top a 596-entry field to win it for \$121,405 and his first MSPT title.

Friedman, primarily a cash mixed-game player, brought his lifetime tournament earnings up over \$3 million, which was also boosted over the summer when he won the 2019 WSOP Event #35: \$10,000 Dealers Choice Championship 6-Handed for \$312,417 and bracelet three.

Others to cash the tournament were Michael Ermie (12th - \$8,672), 2-time MSPT Champion Dan Bekavac (15th -

\$6,937), popular Cleveland radio personality Michael “Triv” Trivisonno (16th - \$5,781), former champ Abdul Amer (28th - \$2,775), MSPT Season 4 POY Pat Steele (38th - \$2,486), and MSPT Champ & Season 8 POY Chris Meyers (61st - \$2,197).

Final Table Action

Friedman steadily chipped up at the final table and wouldn't notch his first elimination until five-handed play. That is when Matthew McKenzie got his stack all-in pre flop holding the ace-nine of clubs only to see Friedman roll over ace-queen. The superior ace held and McKenzie was ousted in fifth place for \$30,640.

Not long after, Friedman picked up two black jacks to bust Daniel Swartz, who failed to get lucky with ace-jack all in pre flop, and in the very next hand the eventual champ dispatched Agostino Ragozzino. It happened when Ragozzino jammed holding ace-five and Friedman woke up with pocket

JACK Cleveland Casino



Spencer Wright



JACK Cleveland Casino

Buy-in: \$1,110 ♣ 596 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Adam Friedman	Gahanna, OH	\$121,405
2	Spencer Wright	Jeddo, MI	\$74,585
3	Agostino Ragozzino	Girard, OH	\$54,343
4	Daniel Swartz	Cleveland, OH	\$40,468
5	Matthew McKenzie	Madison Heights, MI	\$30,640
6	Jeremy Chen	Rocky River, OH	\$23,125
7	Jason Trezak	Portage, IN	\$17,922
8	Ben Beever	Macomb Township, MI	\$13,875
9	Kurtis Boutelle	Frewsburg, NY	\$10,984
10	Justin Mihalek	Columbia Station, OH	\$8,672

nines. Ragozzino flopped a five but that was all the help he got before busting in third place for \$54,343.

Friedman took a more than 3:1 chip lead into heads-up play against Spencer Wright. On the very first hand, Wright called off with pocket aces when Friedman 3-bet jammed a flush draw. Wright's aces failed to hold as Friedman rivered the diamond he needed. Wright had to settle for second place and \$74,585 in prize money. ♣



Final Table



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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT MAIN EVENT CASHES

Leaders as of August 20, 2019

Rank	Player Name	Cashes
1	Aaron Johnson	34
2	Kou Vang	32
3	Richard Alsup	26
4	Mark Hodge	24
	DJ Buckley	24
6	Patrick Steele	23
7	Blake Bohn	22
8	Jason Seitz	20
	Rob WazWaz	20
10	Matt Alexander	19
11	Matt Kirby	18
	Dan DQ Hendrickson	18
	Phil Mader	18
	Nicholas Pupillo	18
15	Jeremy Dresch	17
	Josh Reichard	17
17	Mark Sandness	16
	Todd Melander	16
18	Everett Carlton	15
	Rodger Johnson	15
20	Tom Hammers	14
	John Hayes	14
	Brian Zupancich	14
	Ben Keeline	14
	John Reading	14
	Keith Heine	14
26	Joe Matheson	13
	Reg Powell	13
	Dennis Stevermer	13
	Adam Lamphere	13
	Mike Shin	13
31	Brett Reichard	12
	John Pierce	12
	Joseph Barnard	12
	Adam Friedman	12
	Michael Ernie	12
	Craig Trost	12
	Richard Syverud	12
	Chris Meyers	12
39	Judd Greenagel	11
	Jason Bender	11
	Andrew Rubinberg	11
	Michael Ross	11
	Loki Abboud	11
	Osama Aweida	11



Aaron Johnson - Red Wing, MN



Kou Vang - Maplewood, MN

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GUN LAKE CASINO™

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MONDAYS

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7:00PM

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\$80 Buy-In
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11:00AM

\$75 plus \$25 Bounty
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SUNDAYS

1:00PM

\$50 Buy-In

No Limit Hold'Em Tournament

*(*Will not be held the 2nd Sunday of the month)*

*2ND SUNDAY

12:00PM

\$240 plus \$100 Bounty
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POKER COACHING.com

Strategy presented by Jonathan Little

EXPLAINING BLOCKERS AND HOW THEY COME INTO PLAY

BY MSPT STAFF

On Day 1c of the MSPT JACK Cleveland \$1,100 Main Event, a tournament that drew 596 runners, it was Level 10 (600/1,200/1,200) when a middle-position player raised to 2,700 and Friedman (177,000) three-bet from the cut-off (to around 7,000) holding the 6♦9♦.

The original raiser called and it was heads-up to the K♠9♠7♣ flop, which they both checked. On the 8♥ turn, Friedman bet 5,500 after his opponent checked. The call was made and the 5♣ completed the board on the river.

The original raiser opted to lead out for 11,200 and Friedman quickly called with his straight. The original raiser showed the A♠9♥ for a pair of nines with the nut-flush blocker and saw the pot pushed to Friedman, who chipped up to 200,000 after the hand.

We consulted Jonathan Little of PokerCoaching.com about the hand.

MSPT: What do you make of Friedman's three-bet preflop with the suited two gappers? Do you ever mix it up with such hands?

Little: The three-bet with 6♦9♦ is certainly aggressive, but it is fine every once in a while, especially if you expect your opponent to frequently fold preflop or call and then play incredibly tightly and straightforwardly after the flop. The junky suited gappers are excellent hands to three-bet with because they often fall below the opponent's calling range, making them somewhat live when they see the flop.

Friedman actually made second pair but checked the flop. Do you think he should've continuation-bet?

Little: I'm fine with his check, although betting with his entire range in this situation may be fine, depending on how he structures his preflop three-betting range. In general, the best hands to start checking are the marginal made hands that don't mind getting closer to the showdown, which is what he happens to have this time.

Friedman just called a bet on the river. You ok with this or do you think he should've considered a raise?

Little: I think calling is by far the best play, unless his opponent is absolute calling station. Also, given the opponent



Adam Friedman

could easily have a flush or a better straight, there is not much merit to raising.

For those players who might not know much about "blockers," can you talk a little about how holding the ace of spades in this hand might have influenced the player to lead out?

Little: When you fold a card that makes it difficult/impossible for your opponent to have a specific hand, that card is referred to as a "blocker." In this case, having the ace of spades makes it impossible for Friedman to have the nut flush, reducing the number of combinations of hands in his range that will always call a river bet (which means he will on average have a few more junky hands in his range than normal). When you have a strong blocker and completely lack showdown value (which may or may not have been the case in this situation), bluffing becomes a viable option.

PokerCoaching.com is an interactive poker learning experience from two-time WPT Champion Jonathan Little. Try it for free at PokerCoaching.com/mspt.



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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of August 17, 2019

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Pavel Plesuv	\$681,212
2	Richard Alsup	\$678,102
3	Michael Soyza	\$592,137
4	David Levine	\$495,500
5	Blake Bohn	\$485,398
6	Thomas Boivin	\$461,505
7	Mike Shin	\$455,175
8	Mazen Abdallah	\$445,000
9	Felipe Davila	\$427,942
10	Kou Vang	\$406,099
11	Nadar Kakhmazov	\$395,888
12	Linglin Zeng	\$393,506
13	Yat Cheng	\$392,806
14	Andrew Rubinberg	\$386,537
15	Jeremy Saderne	\$373,410
16	Carl Carodenuoto	\$358,241
17	Alessio Sabatini	\$356,000
18	Chris Moon	\$349,415
19	Aaron Massey	\$349,028
20	Adam Friedman	\$338,137
21	Peixin Liu	\$318,857
22	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
23	Matthew Stammen	\$312,298
24	Mukul Pahuja	\$308,643
25	Sean Davidson	\$306,265
26	Rob WazWaz	\$303,248
27	Michael Shelton	\$302,020
28	Jason Zarlenga	\$298,379
29	James Romero	\$297,580
30	Sheddy Siddiqui	\$297,398
31	Matt Kirby	\$282,336
32	Mike Shanahan	\$278,607
33	Aaron Johnson	\$277,298
34	Jeremy Dresch	\$276,265
35	Chris Meyers	\$274,479
36	Lou Garza	\$269,639
37	Osama Aweida	\$242,330
38	Alex Foxen	\$239,000
39	Keith Heine	\$238,292
40	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
41	Greg Himmelbrand	\$234,062
42	Maury Solano	\$228,817
43	Richard Bai	\$226,044
44	Mark Brazis	\$221,323
45	Joni Jouhkimainen	\$221,304
46	Travis Lauson	\$220,117
47	Daniel Bekavac	\$218,366
48	Glen Nguyen	\$215,430
49	Keven Stammen	\$212,187
50	Hao "John" Sun	\$211,841



Pavel Plesuv - Moldova, Prague



Rich Alsup - New Hope, MN

Check out complete
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msptpoker.com



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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Season 10 Standings as of August 17

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Mike Shin	4,075
2	Brian Wilson	3,250
3	Adam Friedman	3,200
4	Brian Hou	2,400
5	Daniel Bekavac	2,300
6	Rudy Sawa	2,200
7	Jeremy Brown	2,100
8	Chris Moon	2,050
9	Mazen Abdallah	2,000
	Linglin Zeng	2,000
11	Jon Hanner	1,900
12	Sheddy Siddiqui	1,850
13	Scott Vetter	1,800
	Sean Munjal	1,800
	Alessio Sabatini	1,800
	Sean Davidson	1,800
17	Matt Kirby	1,725
18	Kou Vang	1,700
	Jeffrey Hill	1,700
	Edward Mogilnicki	1,700
	Pedro Mendes	1,700
	Michael Shelton	1,700
23	Tom Stambaugh	1,633
24	DJ Buckley	1,617



Aaron Johnson - 2018 Season 9 POY

♣All players who cash in a MSPT event are ranked for Player of the Year points. At the end of the calendar year 2019, the top-ranked player will receive POY recognition and a \$10,000 WSOP Main Event buy-in for 2020.

♣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 2019, visit <https://msptpoker.com/statistics/MSPTSeasonPoints.aspx>



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