



MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

NATION'S #1
POKER TOUR
JULY 2016

PLUS:

CATCHING UP WITH
2009 WSOP CHAMP
JOE CADA

YOUR GUIDE TO THE
IOWA STATE POKER
CHAMPIONSHIP

WHERE ARE THEY
NOW -- KENNA JAMES

USING A BIG STACK
TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

GET TO KNOW MSPT
PRO MATT KIRBY

MSPT
CHAMPION

The Venetian
Las Vegas, NV
June 8-10, 2016



THE VENETIAN
POKER ROOM
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Wednesday
June 8, 2016
Champion

Thomas Boivin

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Main Event**



MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

UPCOMING EVENTS



\$350 Regional Event
Potawatomi Casino
Milwaukee, WI
July 9-17, 2016

**\$100,000
GUARANTEED!**



Iowa State Championship
Meskwaki Casino
Tama, IA
July 16-24, 2016

**\$300,000
GUARANTEED!**



\$350 Regional Event
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Onamia, MN
August 6-14, 2016

**\$50,000
GUARANTEED!**



Indiana State Championship
Tropicana Evansville
Evansville, IN
August 13-21, 2016

**\$250,000
GUARANTEED!**

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

** For full schedule of qualifiers, satellites, and Main Event, visit:*

WWW.MSPTPOKER.COM

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

Letter from the Editor

MSPT SETS ANOTHER RECORD AT THE VENETIAN IN LAS VEGAS

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

As expected, the third annual Mid-States Poker Tour Venetian Main Event, which featured a \$2 million guarantee, proved to be a record-setting affair. Over the course of three starting flights, 2,887 entrants took to the felt (499 entries on Day 1a; 968 Day 1b; and 1,420 Day 1c), which smashed the advertised \$2 million guarantee by creating a \$2,829,260 prize pool and made the event the largest event in MSPT history.

Among those to participate in the tournament were 2000 World Series of Poker champ Carlos Mortensen, 2007 WSOP champ Jerry Yang, 2016 Wynn Classic winner Ludovic Geilich, World Poker Tour Player of the Year Mukul Pahuja, and of course hundreds of players from the Midwest.

The success of that tournament, which you will read about later in this issue, begs the question, just how big can the MSPT get? Thus far Season 7, which just reached its midway point, has set numerous records. Outside of Vegas, the largest MSPT event in the Midwest, May's MSPT FireKeepers, drew 820 entries to the felt, while back in January a Regional record of 904 entries was set at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Looking forward, the MSPT is set to host a dozen more events including the Iowa State Poker Championship at Meskwaki Casino from July 16-24, the Indiana State Poker Championship at Tropicana Evansville from August 13-21, and the Michigan State Poker Championship at a return visit to FireKeepers from October 8-16.

There's no denying the tour is on the rise, and we want to thank both our partners and our players for helping make the MSPT a success.

Bryan Mileski
MSPT Founder

Chad Holloway
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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 Preview

MSPT RETURNS TO MESKWAKI CASINO JULY 16-24 FOR IOWA STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

From July 16-24, the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) will continue with its second stop of Season 7 at Meskwaki Casino in Tama, Iowa, this time for the \$1,100 buy-in, \$300,000 guaranteed Iowa State Poker Championship.

The stop, which requires players be just 18 years or older to participate, will kick off with a series of satellites that feed into the Main Event, which will take place from Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24.

The Main Event will be held over three days beginning Friday evening with Day 1a at 4 p.m. Day 1a will play 14 levels. Day 1b will then take place at the same time on Saturday. Players who advance from Main Event Flight 1a to Day 2 are not eligible to play in Flight 1b. The remaining players from each flight will combine on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and play until a champion is crowned.

The Main Event final table will be broadcast LIVE (15-minute delay) worldwide on msptpoker.com using RFID technology allowing all viewers to see the hole cards. In addition, the entirety of the Main Event will be live reported in the MSPT's brand new live blog, which can be found on msptpoker.com once the tournament begins. Simply look for the neon green button that reads "Live Updates."

In addition to the satellites and Main Event, Meskwaki Casino will host two bonus events. The first is on Monday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. and is a \$50 no-limit hold'em rebuy event with 20-minute levels. The second, a \$20 no-limit hold'em rebuy, will then be held at the same time on Tuesday, July 19.

Here's a look at the MSPT Iowa State Poker Championship schedule:

Iowa State Poker Championship				
Main Event will include Live Reporting and LIVE Final Table Broadcast with Hole Cards				
<i>The +10 is an optional dealer appreciation add-on — 2,000 chips in Qualifiers, 5,000 chips in Main Event</i>				
SINGLE TABLE SATELLITES (SIT-N-GO) OFFERED DAILY ON DEMAND				
\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite				
\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$300,000 GTD Main Event				
Day	Event	Location	Rounds	Time
Saturday, Jun 4	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 Minute	1:00 PM
Saturday, Jun 11	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 Minute	1:00 PM
Saturday, Jun 18	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 Minute	1:00 PM
Saturday, Jun 25	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 Minute	1:00 PM
Saturday, July 2	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 Minute	1:00 PM
Saturday, July 9	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 Minute	1:00 PM
Saturday, July 16	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$110+10+10 Satellite - 10% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Poker Room	20 Minute	12:00 PM
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Poker Room	30 Minute	6:00 PM
Sunday, July 17	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$110+10+10 Satellite - 10% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Poker Room	20 Minute	2:00 PM
Monday, July 18	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	Meskwaki Casino Bonus Event - \$50 NLHE Rebuy (+5 opt dealer add-on)	Event Center	20 Minute	7:00 PM
Tuesday, July 19	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Event Center	20 Minute	2:00 PM
	Meskwaki Casino Bonus Event - \$20 NLHE Rebuy (+5 opt dealer add-on)	Event Center	20 Minute	7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 20	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Event Center	20 Minute	2:00 PM
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	7:00 PM
Thursday, July 21	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	1:00 PM
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	7:00 PM
Friday, July 22	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
	\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$300,000 GTD Main Event	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	10:30 AM
	\$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1A (\$300,000 Guaranteed)*	Event Center	40 Minute	4:00 PM
	<i>Main Event Structure Designed By Afon Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"</i>			
Saturday, July 23	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	8:00am - 10:00am
	\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$300,000 GTD Main Event	Event Center	Seat by List	8:00am - 9:00pm
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$300,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	10:30 AM
	\$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1B (\$300,000 Guaranteed)*	Event Center	40 Minute	4:00 PM
	<i>Main Event Structure Designed By Afon Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"</i>			
Sunday, July 24	MSPT Main Event - Day 2*	Event Center	40 Minute	11:00 AM
	MSPT Main Event - Final Table**	Event Center		Approx. 7:00PM

**Worldwide Broadcast of Final Table using RFID Technology on www.msptpoker.com (if sufficient bandwidth)

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Q & A

2009 WSOP MAIN EVENT CHAMP JOE CADA TRIES HIS HAND AT MSPT

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

When it comes to big names in poker, they don't get much bigger than Joe Cada.

Back in 2009, Cada, who hails from Macomb, Michigan, topped a field of 6,494 players—which included defeating Darwin Moon in heads-up play—to win the World Series of Poker Main Event. At the time, Cada was just 21 years old and supplanted Peter Eastgate as the youngest WSOP Main Event champ ever. Cada, an online player before his big win, took home \$8,546,435 for the win while cementing his name in the history books.

What's more, Cada became the only player in the modern era (2003-present day) to follow up his Main Event win by capturing a second bracelet. It happened in 2014 when he topped a field of 264 to win the WSOP Event #32: \$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed for \$670,041, the second-largest cash of his career.

Other highlights on Cada's poker résumé include runner-up to Carter Phillips in the 2012 WSOP Event #31: \$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em for \$412,424, winning the 2012 PCA \$2,150 NLH Leaderboard Event for \$175,550, and fourth in the 2013 WSOP Event #17: \$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em for \$161,652.

Cada, who tops Michigan's all-time money list with more than \$10.4 million in lifetime earnings—which also puts him 24th overall on the United States all-time money list—played his first MSPT event ever in May's FireKeepers Event. Unfortunately, the former champ fell just three spots shy of cashing when he ran pocket fives into MSPT Team Pro Matt Kirby's pocket nines.

Even so, Cada was kind enough to take some time to speak with us.

MSPT: *What brings you to FireKeepers Casino?*

Cada: It's only a two-hour drive. I've never played here before. All my friends play here and they all came. It's a good tournament, good structure, a lot of players, and a couple hundred thousand for first, so it's a nice tournament. I've been playing so much online lately that right before Vegas it's good to play a little live poker.

Speaking of online poker, right now SCOOP is going on. How come you're not playing that?

Cada: I went Sunday for SCOOP, lost \$10,000 the first day, and just went back to playing cash games. I never seem to



Joe Cada

do well in SCOOPs. I had one year where I won the Second Chance for like \$180k, but other than that SCOOPs never seem to go well and they're really high variance, so I just stick to the \$10/\$20 cash.

What are your plans for this summer? Will you be heading out to Vegas?

Cada: Yeah, I'll be at the WSOP the whole time. I will be playing a full schedule of pot-limit Omaha and no-limit hold'em events. I haven't really dabbled into the mix games yet. Hopefully I can sell enough action to play in the \$111,111 One Drop for the first time. It should be a busy summer.

Both you and Ryan Riess have won the WSOP Main Event. It seems Michigan is putting out some pretty decent poker players. Why is that?

Cada: There are a lot of good players in Michigan mainly because of how cold it is over here [laughs]. Cards in winter are pretty popular here so a lot of people got into poker. There are a lot of poker rooms. You've got three casinos in Detroit, a lot of charity rooms that are around. There are a lot of people who play around here – David "Bakes" Baker, Dean Hamrick, Jeff Gross, some other players I can't think of – it's a good group. 🍵

Mid-States Poker Tour



Mid-Season Championship

THOMAS BOIVIN DEFEATS MUKUL PAHUJA TO WIN MSPT VENETIAN, TAKES HOME \$352,153

Largest event in MSPT history draws 2,887 entries to crush \$2 million guarantee

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

The third annual Mid-States Poker Tour Venetian Main Event, which took place June 6-10, proved to be a record-setting affair.

First, it was the largest MSPT in history with 2,887-entry field (499 entries on Day 1a; 968 Day 1b; and 1,420 Day 1c), which smashed the advertised \$2 million guarantee by creating a \$2,829,260 prize pool. Second, Day 1c was the largest-ever single flight held at the Venetian (all 72 tables were reserved for tournament play). Finally, Belgium's Thomas Boivin captured the title and a \$352,153—the largest prize ever awarded on the MSPT—after a heads-up deal with poker pro Mukul Pahuja.

Boivin is a 26-year-old player who holds a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering. He learned the game when he was just 16 years old and cut his chops online. According to HendonMob, he had \$84,178 in live tournament earnings before the win with his largest cash being \$25,367 for a runner-up finish in the Belgian Poker Challenge €2,000 High Roller.

"It's definitely a good moment for the money to come," said Boivin, who plans to stick around Vegas (it's his first time here) to try his luck at the 2016 World Series of Poker across town.

Boivin played a patient game at the final table as Pahuja controlled the action with a big stack. However, Boivin hit a heater with four players remaining and entered heads-up play against Pahuja, WPT Season XII Player of the Year, close enough in chips. The two proceeded to change the chip lead several times before taking a timeout to strike a deal. Instead of one of them winning the 403k first-place prize, they agreed that Pahuja would lock up \$300,000, Boivin \$310,659, and that \$41,494 would be left on the table for which to play.

Soon thereafter, Boivin shoved the button with six-eight suited and Pahuja called with king-jack. Pahuja held through the flop and turn, but then Boivin spiked a gutshot straight on the river to clinch victory.

Long before that, the third and final day of play saw 22



The Venetian

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 2,887 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Thomas Boivin	Belgium	\$352,153
2	Mukul Pahuja	Coconut Creek, FL	\$300,000
3	TJ Thondup	Santa Fe, NM	\$186,731
4	Michael Rudolph	Austin, TX	\$147,122
5	Taylor Wilson	Wheeling, WV	\$113,170
6	James Casement	Aurora, IL	\$90,536
7	Will Mietz	Black Hawk, CO	\$70,732
8	James Akenhead	UK	\$53,473
9	Kevin Johnson	Raritan, NJ	\$42,439
10	Edward Lewis	Brentwood, CA	\$33,951

players return to action, and it didn't take long for them to hit the rail. Tizzy Brown was the first to go after kings cracked his pocket aces, and then the last Minnesotan and MSPT champ standing, Dan "DQ" Hendrickson, followed him out the door in 21st for \$20,371.

Others to fall over the next few hours were start-of-the-day chip leader Matt Herrera (16th—\$24,615), Delmiro Toledo (14th—\$26,876), and James Mangararo (11th—\$33,951), just to name a few. Among those to cash in the event in the preceding days were defending champ Angelina Rich (27th—\$13,863), Jared Hamby (32nd —\$9,902), Tyler Kenney (65th—\$5,517), Erwann Pecheux (82nd—\$4,385), Joe Serock (91st—\$4,385), MSPT Meskwaki champ Keith Heine (97th—\$4,395), and MSPT Potawatomi champ Travis Lauson (101st—\$3,961).

Thanks to his third-place finish, TJ Thondup took the lead in the MSPT Season 7 Player of the Year with 2,400 points, ahead of Lauson and Boivin who have 2,117 and 2,000 respectively. 🍀



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Every 15 Minutes

THU: 8am Start

High Hand

\$100/\$50/\$50 Hourly

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SAT: 8am - 3pm

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\$100/\$50/\$50 Hourly

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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Standings as of June 30, 2016



Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Thupten Thondup	2,400
2	Travis Lauson	2,117
3	Thomas Boivin	2,000
4	Richard Bai	1,900
5	Aaron Massey	1,800
	Mukul Pahuja	1,800
6	Rodger Johnson	1,750
7	Ryan Phan	1,700
8	Matt Alexander	1,667
9	Mark Sandness	1,600
	Keith Heine	1,600
	Ron Kruk	1,600
	Michael Rudolph	1,600
13	Blake Whittington	1,567
14	Jason Smith	1,550
15	TJ Ryan	1,500
	Richard Alsup	1,500
	Andrew Rubinberg	1,500
	Rory Lucero	1,500
	Arthur Andrade	1,500
	Josh Crain	1,500
	Taylor Wilson	1,500
22	Kou Vang	1,400
	Aalok Arora	1,400
	Shawn Roberts	1,400
	Carl Carodenuto	1,400
	Brandon Byrne	1,400
	Jim Casement	1,400
28	Scott Johnson	1,367
29	Jason Vanstrom	1,350
30	Hao Sun	1,300
	Chris Blik	1,300
	David Mitchell	1,300
	Will Mietz	1,300
34	Byron Ziebell	1,250
	Abraham Montenegro	1,250
36	Dan Hendrickson	1,200
	Muneer Ahmed	1,200
	Gennady Shimelfarb	1,200
	Jeff Fielder	1,200
	Kenneth Kemple	1,200
	Jason Crews	1,200
	Benjamin Reinhart	1,200
	Nathan Hoh	1,200
	Jake Nguyen	1,200
	James Akenhead	1,200
46	Josh Reichard	1,150
47	Christopher Brauch	1,133

Thupten Thondup - Santa Fe, NM

♣All players who cash in an 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, \$250 toward a satellite or Main Event at every Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) event the following season (max \$5,000), as well as a \$1,100 Main Event seat with \$400 travel to Venetian Mid-Season Championship

♣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 2016, visit www.msptpoker.com/pages/poy

In addition to other POY prizes, Kondler & Associates, CPAs will provide the MSPT Season 7 Player of the Year with free tax services for the 2016 tax year. This includes preparation of all tax forms (1040, 1099, etc.) as well as year-long tax planning and guidance. The firm has specialized in gambling taxation for over 10 years and has developed a concentration in the gaming industry. Kondler & Associates, CPAs has offices in Las Vegas, Atlantic City and San Diego and prepares tax returns for clients across the country.

Check out complete MSPT stats page at msptpoker.com

Mid-States Poker Tour



Get to Know 'em

GET TO KNOW MSPT PRO MATT KIRBY

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

If you've ever played with a ginger-bearded man donning sunglasses and sporting a MSPT patch, chances are you've crossed paths with Matt Kirby, who is one of three MSPT Pros.

Kirby, a two-time MSPT champ from Bemidji with more than \$800,000 in live tournament earnings (that puts him 12th on Minnesota's all-time money list), is married with two kids, Joe (4) and Calvin (1), who splits his time between family and traveling to poker events.

Among the highlights on his poker résumé are finishing runner-up to Jeff Fielder in the 2013 World Series of Poker Circuit Choctaw for \$192,751, winning the 2014 Canterbury Park Fall Poker Classic Main Event for \$84,502, winning the MSPT Season 3 Northern Lights Casino for \$47,070, and taking down the Season 3 Grand Casino Mille Lacs stop for \$46,970.

Kirby recently sat down with MSPT Magazine to tell his poker story.

MSPT: *Can you tell us a little about yourself?*

Kirby: I graduated from Bemidji High School in 2002 and then went to the University of North Dakota where I got a business degree. I then went on to law school at UND for a year, moved down to the Minneapolis area after that first year to pursue a joint MBA/JD degree, but started playing online and quit school.

What's the story on how you got into the game?

Kirby: I met Lance Harris at a bar by pure chance and he agreed to let me come watch him play online. He would also come over and teach me while I played. When I moved to the Twin Cities to continue my law degree, I ended up living about two miles from him. We became good friends pretty quickly.

I wasn't quite good at poker by the time Black Friday came around, but I was ok. After Black Friday I started going to Canterbury Park a lot and then I began traveling and playing MSPTs, which were just in Minnesota back then. I would go and grind all the qualifiers hoping to win multiple seats to the Main Event so I could come out ahead and play for free.

Back then the tournaments were freeze outs with a single Day 1. Sometimes I would win 4-6 seats so it was a really good way to balance my minimal bankroll at the time. I remember how important every qualifier felt back then, an extra \$800 per ticket won was no joke.

What sort of games/stakes do you play most frequently nowadays?

Kirby: I still mostly just play MSPTs, a WPT here and there, cash occasionally, and still grind satellites especially at WSOP. I also play Fan Duel quite a bit now so I'm playing a little less poker, but not too much less. I cut out most MSPT qualifiers now, which is nice as I feel like I've earned that.

Have you ever been tempted to move away from Minnesota for poker, say to Las Vegas or South Florida?

Kirby: No, I love it up north. I can see the appeal but I don't grind cash much. It does suck taking an extra flight from Bemidji to Minneapolis every time, but it's worth it to be with my family.

How would you describe the poker community in Minnesota?

Kirby: It's a great community with a bunch of people I love to see around at MSPTs and other tourneys. A few you hate to see, but at the same time it's kind of fun to hate them and play against them. There are about 10-15 players that I really look forward to playing with, seeing at the events, and doing stuff on days off with.

What's your proudest poker accomplishment and why?

Kirby: My first MSPT win because of the work I put in, plus people would talk shit and say you win all of these tickets but why don't you ever win a tournament? My biggest cash was at the WSOP Circuit in Oklahoma, and the money was nice. Being an MSPT Pro is also up there. It's just cool to be part of a team especially with Blake Bohn and Matt Alexander since they're both so good and such good dudes. Blake is my hero.

How does your family deal with you being a traveling poker pro?

Kirby: I travel less now so that's nice. When I'm home, I'm home and don't play much so we get a lot of family time in. It is tough leaving. I really love being home especially having two boys now, they're so much fun. I was traveling and playing when I started dating Ruth, so she knew what she was getting into.

What sort of things do you do for fun?

Kirby: I fish as often as possible. Doing NBA, NFL and MLB on Fan Duel. I also love to hang out with family and work on the house.

What's the biggest purchase you've made from poker winnings?

Kirby: I bought a new truck in 2012, a Ford 150. I guess our house counts too. Nothing crazy. 🍷



GRAND CLASSIC BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT

\$8,400 estimated total purse!



Thursday, July 28

- ◆ Grand Casino Hinckley
- ◆ Registration starts at 3 p.m. — first come, first served.
- ◆ \$30 original entry & re-entry fee.
- ◆ Space is limited to 280 entries.

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Event Preview

GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS TO HOST \$50,000 GTD REGIONAL AUGUST 6-14

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

From August 6-14, the Mid-States Poker Tour will be at Grand Casino Mille Lacs in Onamia, Minnesota for a \$50,000 guaranteed, \$350 buy-in Regional Event.

"The MSPT and Grand Casino Mille Lacs have enjoyed a partnership dating all the way back to our second-ever event, which is when Jeremy Dresch claimed the title to etch his name in MSPT history," said tour owner and operator Bryan Mileski. "Our Regional Events are only getting bigger and better, and we look forward to returning to the property for the second time in Season 7."

This marks the third time the MSPT will host a Regional Event at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The first came in May 2015 and saw TJ Ryan top a field of 437 entries to win a \$32,236 top prize. More recently, Michael Kane topped a field of 517 entries to win a \$31,270 first-place prize in January of this year.

The Regional Event, which will feature three starting flights each playing 16 levels, will be held over four days beginning Thursday with Day 1a at 5 p.m. Day 1b and 1c will be held on Friday and Saturday at 5 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively. Players who advance to Day 2 from a previous flight are not eligible to play in a subsequent flight. The remaining players from each flight will combine on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and play until a champion is crowned.

In addition to a full slate of satellites, there will be three bonus events. On Saturday, August 6, a \$165 No-Limit Hold'em tournament will take place at 6:15 p.m., while a \$115 No-Limit Hold'em will take place at the same time on Sunday, August 7. Then, on Tuesday, August 9 at 12:15 p.m., a \$65 No-Limit Hold'em tournament will be held.

Here's a look at the complete MSPT Regional Grand Casino Mille Lacs schedule: 🎰

MSPT REGIONAL - \$50,000 GUARANTEED

Registration is first come first served. Please be registered 30 minutes prior to event start.
 Players must have a players club card and valid ID to register and play.

SINGLE TABLE SATELLITES (SIT-N-GO) OFFERED DAILY ON DEMAND
 \$85 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$350 Main Event
 \$120 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$350 Main Event

Day	Event	Location	Time
Sunday, July 17	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B	Poker Room	12:15 PM
Sunday, July 24	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B	Poker Room	12:15 PM
Sunday, July 31	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B	Poker Room	12:15 PM
Sunday, Aug 7	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B	Poker Room	12:15 PM
Saturday, Aug 6	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B Grand Casino \$165 Cash Tournament	Poker Room	6:15 PM
Sunday, Aug 7	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B Grand Casino \$115 Cash Tournament	Poker Room	6:15 PM
Tuesday, Aug 9	Grand Casino \$65 Cash Tournament \$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B	Poker Room	12:15 PM
Wednesday, Aug 10	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B	Poker Room	6:15 PM
Thursday, Aug 11	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight A or B \$350 MSPT Main Event Day 1A (\$50,000 Guaranteed)* Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"	Autumn Room	12:15 PM 5:00 PM
Friday, Aug 12	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight B or C \$350 MSPT Main Event Day 1B (\$50,000 Guaranteed)* Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"	Autumn Room	12:15 PM 5:00 PM
Saturday, Aug 13	\$90 Satellite - 20% advance to \$50,000 GTD Flight C \$350 MSPT Main Event Day 1C (\$50,000 Guaranteed)* Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"	Autumn Room	9:00 AM 2:00 PM
Sunday, Aug 14	MSPT Main Event - Day 2*	Autumn Room	11:00 AM

Players are allowed to re-enter a Satellite if they are eliminated before the end of late registration.
 Players are allowed a MAX of one (1) re-entry per Main Event Flight during standard registration process
 Re-entries will receive a full starting stack
 There will be no dead-stacks in play for the Satellites or the Main Event
 Players are eligible to play at first opportunity, they do not have to post or wait for the blinds.
 Re-entries will be assigned seat based on random draw or to balance tables at TD's discretion

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PPNS Book

SECRET-SHARING

BY JACOB "JAYMIND" WESTLIN AND BRYAN MILESKI

Basic poker etiquette hardly exists anymore. It seems there was a time when poker was a gentlemanly pursuit, a game that occurred among mature men who simply enjoyed the strategy and recreation. Now, verbal abuse and personal boasting are the norm.

Furthermore, when did it become acceptable behavior to drill one's tablemates with endless inquiries about their cards? Of course, when we as spectators view an interesting hand to its conclusion, and there's no showdown, we get very curious. We want to know what the winning hand was! Curiosity is a basic human feeling. But emotionally mature adults should be able to curb their curiosity in the name of etiquette. Only children act on basic human instinct without regard for social courtesy.

Now, I realize that the occasional question can be perfectly harmless, properly phrased. But most sociopaths lean in quietly with their stank-breath and limited knowledge of the English language to ask, "What'cha got that hand?"

Gross, dude. Leave me alone. I gave my cards to the dealer facedown for a reason. I didn't want anybody to see them. What the hell makes you think you're any different? We're not pals. I don't even like you sitting next to me for two hours! There's absolutely no reason why we would share secrets, like two gossiping schoolgirls. That's what it's like! It's as if he recognizes that I don't want to show people my hand, but

come on, I can tell *him!* Like we've been best friends since grade school, or something...

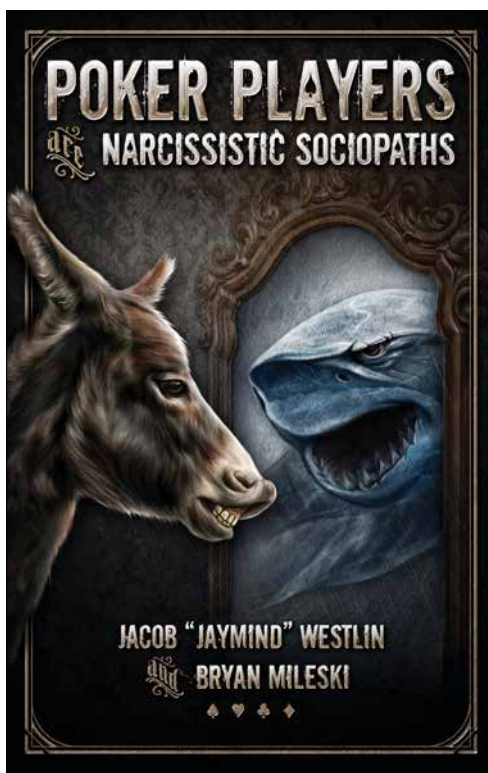
This practice is particularly irritating when you've just lost a hand, and the player who beat you, while stacking your money, wants to know what you had. I hate this! The money I've just dumped is gift enough. What makes this person feel

as if he's entitled to both your money and all the information in your head? It just seems like piling on to me. Poker players can be so terrible with their social timing. When your grandfather dies, I don't turn to you to ask if you got his Corvette in the will. Give it a second, man! Okay, that's a terribly inaccurate analogy, and probably offensive. But nonetheless, the general principles remain the same. Have a little tact, homeboy.

Also, I equally couldn't give a shit less about your hand. These people think that they'll repay you by sharing their hand secrets with you. For instance, a hand will conclude, a hand I've paid only passing attention to, and the winner next to me will lean in and say, "I had Ace-three." What is this? I don't even remember the board cards. Was that a good hand? Can't you see I'm doing everything I *can to not pay any attention to you!* I didn't ask about your cards. You're not

endearing yourself to me by lavishing me with unrequested information. LEAVE. ME. ALONE.

Visit PPNSBook.com to purchase the book *Poker Players are Narcissistic Sociopaths* for only \$14.95! 🍀





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Event Recap

CARDPLAYER'S JULIO RODRIGUEZ WINS MSPT VENETIAN MEDIA FREEROLL

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

Before the MSPT Venetian kicked off, a special freeroll was held for 30 invited members of the media. The inaugural MSPT Media Freeroll featured a \$1,100 Main Event seat for the winner, while The Venetian Poker Room juiced the “prize pool” by giving each participant a \$10 food comp.

Among the 25 members of the media to take part were Backdoor Quads founder Will Shilliber, poker media veteran Marty Derbyshire, CardsChat’s Jon Sofen, and *PokerNews*’ Mo Nuwwarah.

Another participant was poker commentator Joe “Stapes” Stapleton, who earned the distinction of being the first player knocked out of turbo tournament. Stapleton, who had been crippled after losing with KxQx to Ax10x, got his last 275 all in from the hijack and both blinds called him. They proceeded to check it down as the board ran out K♠2♦9♣10♠5♦, and Sheryl Dowland tabled the K♦J♦, which bested the Q♦8♣ of Stapes, who earned a bonus \$10 food comp for being the first one out.

Not long after, poker radio show host Mark Hoke followed him out the door when his K♦K♥ was cracked by Zen Poker Mentoring’s Arthur “Ace” MacFarland, who held the A♠Q♦ and rivered a bullet after the board ran out 8♥7♠10♥9♦A♦.

MacFarland continued to build a stack, and eventually found himself among the final three alongside CardPlayer’s Julio Rodriguez and poker media veteran and player Bernard Lee. With the blinds at 400/300/100, MacFarland shoved for 12,200 from the small blind holding the 3♠3♦ and Lee called from the big with the K♥Q♦. MacFarland survived the J♦4♥8♦ flop, but the 9♦ turn gave Lee a ton of outs. Fortunately for MacFarland, the 2♣ river was safe and he shipped the double. Lee bowed out in third place a short time later.

MacFarland began heads-up play with a slight lead over Rodriguez, but the two battled back and forth. Then, in the biggest hand of the tournament, Rodriguez limped the button and then called off for 22,600 with pocket nines when MacFarland jammed with ace-jack.

“Flipping for the whole thing,” said Rodriguez, who promptly ended the suspense by spiking quads on the flop. MacFarland held on for a bit, but with the blinds up to 1,000/2,000/300, he shoved his last 6,000 from the button with



Julio Rodriguez



Diana Cox & Author Ace MacFarland

ten-nine only to run into the jack-nine of Rodriguez, who shipped the Main Event seat after the board ran out clean.

Congratulations to Julio Rodriguez, winner of the MSPT Venetian Media freeroll! 🎉



MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of June 30, 2016



Thomas Boivin - Las Vegas, NV



Peixin Liu - Blaine, MN

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Thomas Boivin	\$352,153
2	Peixin Liu	\$302,452
3	Mukul Pahuja	\$300,000
4	Blake Bohn	\$275,277
5	Jason Zarlenga	\$272,194
6	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
7	Kou Vang	\$227,172
8	Richard Alsup	\$221,343
9	Travis Lauson	\$216,934
10	Carl Carodenuto	\$206,908
11	John Hayes	\$206,648
12	Keven Stammen	\$199,635
13	Thupten Thondup	\$198,015
14	David Gonia	\$180,080
15	Aaron Massey	\$177,170
16	Mark Sandness	\$176,364
17	Andrew Rubinberg	\$175,921
18	Matt Kirby	\$173,499
19	Nick Jivkov	\$173,155
20	Jeremy Dresch	\$172,258
21	Dan Sun	\$170,588
22	David Mowery	\$169,837
23	Drake Bronk	\$163,870
24	David Lee	\$160,407
25	Ryan Hartmann	\$157,058
26	Bill Rogers	\$155,904
27	Dan Hendrickson	\$155,192
28	Jason Mirza	\$152,443
29	Daniel Goepel	\$151,586
30	Rodger Johnson	\$151,135
31	Michael Rudolph	\$147,122
32	Harry Tisdale	\$142,637
33	Michael Ferrarotti	\$134,642
34	Phanora Prom	\$133,856
35	TJ Ryan	\$133,576
36	Nicholas Pupillo	\$130,807
37	Leon Morford	\$130,300
38	Matt Alexander	\$129,913
39	Michael Lang	\$128,158
40	Ervin Bjerga	\$127,349
41	Muneer Ahmed	\$126,902
42	Ryan Dykhouse	\$126,817
43	Adam Lamphere	\$123,213
44	Jason Sell	\$123,201
45	James Gibson	\$123,061
46	Reza Yazdi	\$120,765
47	Joe Matheson	\$119,609
48	Mark Johnson	\$117,087
49	Jason Seitz	\$116,060
50	Jason Smith	\$115,852

Check out complete MSPT stats page at msptpoker.com

Q & A

POKER PRO KENNA JAMES PLAYS HIS FIRST MSPT EVENT ON VISIT TO HOMETOWN

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

Kenna James. Does that name ring a bell? If so, it's because he was one of the players minted as a star during the height of the "Poker Boom." Not only does he have \$3,629,698 in lifetime earnings, he's also a television commentator and an actor.

Regarding the former, he's served as commentator for *The Premiere Poker League* with Jesse May in London, as well as for WPT Canada alongside Jim Van Horn. He was also cohost of the *Ultimate Poker Challenge* alongside the late Chad Brown.

According to Wikipedia, James' most notable acting appearance is in the crime thriller *The Trust* (2016) where he had an extended cameo as Captain Harris opposite Nicolas Cage's character.

James has results dating back to 1996, but his biggest cash of \$700,000 came in March 2006 when he finished runner-up to Minnesota Poker Hall of Famer Mike Schneider in the PartyPoker.com Million V Cruise, which was good for \$700,000. Other highlights on James' résumé include finishing second in the 2005 World Poker Tour Legends of Poker for \$588,210, winning the 2006 L.A. Poker Classic \$2,600 Event for \$242,251, and finishing 44th in the 2005 WSOP Main Event for \$235,390.

Back in May, James made an unannounced appearance at FireKeepers Casino in Battle Creek, Michigan for his first ever MSPT stop. He was kind enough to chat with us for a quick interview.

MSPT: *You live in Las Vegas. What brings you all the way out here to the middle of Michigan?*

James: Well first of all, I grew up 20 miles from here in Albion, Michigan. This is a dream, my boys, for the last few years, have wanted to come here. It's like coming home, and I get emotional talking about it. I went to my hometown this afternoon and had lunch at the best pizza place in the world, Cascarelli's and it's just great to be here.

That's what brings me to the tournament, and of course the guarantee. I've always wanted to come play your tour, I've heard great things about it. Just really excited to be here.

Another Las Vegas poker pro, Dan Heimiller, also happens to be here. I assume you two are familiar with one another?

James: I've played with Dan through the years. I've nicknamed him. I gave him a nickname, which hasn't caught on, I'm surprised, but I call Dan "The Riddler" because



Kenna James (left)

nobody can figure out his play. I've played with him for years and I can't figure out what he's doing. He seems to make no sense, it's like a riddle. Plus he looks a little like The Riddler.

Did you two travel here together?

James: Nope, he just happened to show up [laughs].

What else have you been up to in recent years?

James: Right now I split my time between coaching and playing. I have a lot of great students, so I keep a full stable of students who're doing really well. That's the mark of a good coach is how well your players do. That takes a lot of time because all my sessions are one on one for the most part.

On the weekends, I'm out playing in Las Vegas. I play a lot more live than tournaments these days because the margins in tournaments are so small. I've limited my tournament playing to local tournaments in Vegas, the WSOP, and once in awhile some special events. Maybe an occasional cruise here and there. I'm just not traveling much anymore.

What are your plans for this summer?

James: It's great to see tournaments like yours spring up. I know you'll be in Vegas in a couple weeks. I'll be there for that. Otherwise, the plan is to win a bracelet, final table a WSOP event of course, and run deep in the Big One. It's a grind, and players get tougher and tougher every year, so my first plan is just to be very competitive and to play well. I'll let the cards fall as they may. 🍀



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DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE PUSHED AROUND BY THE PROS

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

The MSPT Venetian is one of my favorite events of the year, not because it's our biggest tournament, but because it gives our regulars a chance to test their mettle against poker pros in town for the World Series of Poker.

The unique blend always results in some unique matchups from MSPT Canterbury Park champ Dan "DQ" Hendrickson taking on 2001 WSOP champ Carlos Mortensen, to MSPT Season 6 Player of the Year Mark Hodge squaring off against European superstar Marvin Rettenmaier. The combinations are endless, and the varying styles of play often result in some entertaining hands. Case in point, a big hand from the Day 1b flight.

It happened in Level 6 (200/400/50) between GPI Female Player of the Year Kelly Minkin, a breakout star in 2015 due in no small part to a 29th-place finish for \$211,821 in the WSOP Main Event (which made her the last woman standing in the tournament) and MSPT regular Rick Syverud, who traveled out from Wisconsin to play the event.

It began when Syverud, who at the beginning of the day personally told me he was going to play an aggressive game, opened with a raise and Minkin three-bet to 3,600. Syverud four-bet to what looked to be 13,000, and Minkin responded by moving all in. Syverud, who went deep on Day 1a but failed to bag, snap-called off for 37,675 and it was off to the races.

Syverud: A♦J♦

Minkin: 8♠8♥

Syverud certainly played the hand aggressively, and it was clear he was willing to gamble. However, a hand like ace-jack, even suited, is often dominated in such situations. I was curious as to why he was so quick to call the shove.

"She had been three or four-betting often," Syverud explained. "No one was standing up to her, so I made up my mind that I was going to. I knew she couldn't have a huge hand



Rick Syverud

every time, and I was willing to gamble. I wanted to show the pros that I wouldn't be pushed around."

The gamble paid off for the big man after the board ran out K♠9♦4♦A♣10♥ to give him a double to 80,000 while Minkin was eliminated a short time later. Syverud went on to bag 140,000 on Day 1b, and on Day 2 finished 53rd for \$6,507, which was his sixth career MSPT cash and largest to date.

"There is no denying that the poker pros have more experience than me, but it's important to show them I won't be an easy target," Syverud continued. "The best way to do that is to show them that if they pick on me, they'll be met with resistance. Opponents tend to back off a bit when they know you're willing to gamble to neutralize their edge."

Syverud may not have had the same amount of experience as Minkin, nor a lot of the other players in the field, but he used the skills he learned playing on the MSPT, combined it with his willingness to gamble, and showed that even an amateur from Wisconsin can hang with the big boys. 🐶

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