



MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

NATION'S #1
POKER TOUR
JANUARY 2020



Anthony Dunne

WINS SEASON 10 FINALE AT CANTERBURY PARK, \$155,288

GERALD HEATH
2019 WISCONSIN
STATE CHAMP

WILKIE WINS
2019 DENVER
POKER OPEN

POKER BOWL IV
\$1M GUARANTEE
JAN. 29 - FEB. 1

\$360 REGIONAL
AT GOLDEN GATES
JAN. 15-19

MIKE SHIN
SEASON 10
POY



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Letter From the Publisher

MIKE SHIN WINS MSPT SEASON 10 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

For the first time in tour history, the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) Player of the Year race was a foregone conclusion headed into the last stop at Canterbury Park. Mike Shin held such a big lead in the Player of the Year race after a tremendous 2019 that no one could mathematically catch him. His 5,475 points were well ahead of Adam Friedman, who at the time was his next closest competition with 3,500 points.

For finishing as MSPT Season 10 POY, Shin was awarded a \$10,000 Las Vegas prize package.

Shin amassed a dozen MSPT cashes totaling \$441,753 in 2019, which started with a win in the MSPT Majestic Star back in January for \$68,593. He would later finish third in the summer's MSPT Venetian for \$334,000. That was the second-largest score of his career behind the \$427,930 he received for finishing 12th in the 2016 World Series of Poker Main Event.

"It feels great. It's something I was trying for," Shin said on the PokerNews LFG Podcast after the win. "Early on when I won the first one I just knew I had to go for it. I went to a couple of extra stops and it worked out for me."

He elaborated: "Anything could happen. I think when there were three or four Main Events left players had a chance to catch up with me. It wasn't until there were two events left that I felt pretty good about it. I knew I was going to play both of them too, so then it felt great, but before that anything could happen. I was glad to lock it down."

While Shin was a force to be reckoned with on the MSPT, he also found time to do damage elsewhere in 2019, which proved to be a career year with more than \$693K in tournament earnings. Back in August, Shin won another mid-major title when he took down the HPT St. Louis for \$160,632, the third biggest score of his career.

It's also worth noting that Aaron Johnson, the defending POY after having claimed the title in 2018, came close to doing it again. Thanks to taking third place in the season-ending MSPT Canterbury Park, he finished in second place on the points leaderboard behind Shin with 4,442 points.

Shin joins an exclusive club of MSPT POY winners dating back to 2011 – Johnson (2018), Chris Meyers (2017), Rich Alsup (2016), Mark Hodge (2015), Michael Deis (2014), Pat Steele (2013), Dan Sun (2012), and Nate Fair (2011).

Season 10 Final Player of the Year Standings on Page 17. 🍀



Mike Shin



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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

STEVE WILKIE WINS 2019 MSPT DENVER POKER OPEN MAIN EVENT (\$85,149)

BY MSPT STAFF



Steve Wilkie

Steve Wilkie was down but not out several times at the MSPT Denver Poker Open \$1,100 Main Event at Golden Gates Casino. He kept hold of his precious tournament life no matter how short his stack got, and he climbed out of more than one deep hole at the final table to ultimately emerge as champion.

Wilkie won \$85,149, his biggest live cash, and it comes just a few months after he chopped the Colorado Poker Championship \$1,100 Main Event for \$60,114.

He said he really felt his game taking off in recent months, and he now has two wins as evidence.

While Wilkie had a nice stack heading into the final table, ranking third in chips, the early stages were completely

dominated by Ryan Remington. After coming in as the second stack just a bit behind Leonardo Valenzuela, Remington caught fire.

He made several big hands and caught a bluff from Valenzuela, and by the time Valenzuela busted in eighth, Remington had half the chips in play. He only added to that when he cooled Sam Benavram with aces over queens.

Meanwhile, Wilkie sank to the bottom of the counts when four-handed. He was below five big blinds after making an inferior flush on the river against Tony Piazza. However, he slowly began his climb back by doubling his last three big blinds with king-nine against the jack-three of Piazza.

After he picked off a big bluff from Remington with nines

Golden Gates Casino

on a board with two overs and three to a flush, Wilkie really caught a charge.

"All right!" he exclaimed with a clap. "Now we're playing poker."

Still, when he got heads up with Remington, it seemed he was destined for second place. After all, Remington had been running like hot fire and had more than 6 million chips of about 8 million in play.

The British transplant wasn't having it though, as he opted to employ a small-ball strategy and began to chip away at his deficit. Nearly every pot the two played was limped, and showdowns were frequent as neither player seemed willing to risk many chips aside from the times Wilkie overbet shoved and showed top pair of aces in raised pots.

About an hour in, Wilkie took the lead when he made trips against Remington's top two. A disgusted Remington could hardly believe the hands Wilkie was making.

Finally, Wilkie completed the comeback when he won a race with sevens against ace-king, ending the two-hour match. While both players seemed happy to battle over small pots, they'd finally found hands, along with the fact that only 40 big blinds were in play that late in the structure, that compelled



Golden Gates Casino

Buy-in: \$1,110 ♣ 399 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Steve Wilkie	Arvada, CO	\$85,149
2	Ryan Remington	Gillette, WY	\$52,636
3	Tony Piazza	Lakewood, CO	\$38,316
4	Cooper Wanty	Ann Arbor, MI	\$28,253
5	Michael Rankins	Colorado Springs, CO	\$21,287
6	Ben Greenburg	Boulder, CO	\$16,255
7	Samuel Benavram	Avon, CO	\$12,772
8	Leonardo Valenzuela	Shepherd, MT	\$10,063
9	Don Marquis	Black Hawk, CO	\$7,354
10	Ryan Barnett	Lincoln, NE	\$6,192

them to get stacks in.

"That was a grind man," Wilkie said afterward with a grin. "It feels incredible." 🎰

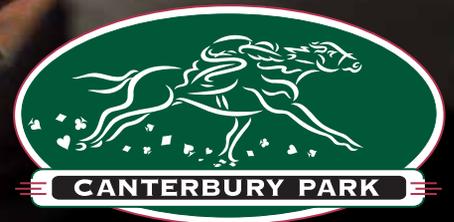


Final Table



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JANUARY 15-19

\$275 NLH MAIN EVENT

Day 1A: Wednesday, Jan 15 – 5 p.m.

Day 1B: Thursday, Jan. 16 – 5 p.m.

Day 1C: Friday, Jan. 17 – 5 p.m.

Day 1D: Saturday, Jan. 18 – 10:30 a.m.

Day 1E: Saturday, Jan. 18 – 5 p.m.

Day 2: Sunday, Jan. 19 – 1 p.m.

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

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February 21-23

**MN STATE POKER
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**

March 5-29

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

\$300K GUARANTEE

April 24-26

Event Preview

MSPT RETURNS TO GOLDEN GATES CASINO FOR A \$360 REGIONAL JANUARY 15-19

BY MSPT STAFF

For the first time in Season 11, the MSPT is headed to Black Hawk, Colorado for a \$360 Regional Event January 15-19 boasting a \$150K Guarantee.

Golden Gates Casino resides in Black Hawk, which is about an hour west of Denver. This initial weekend of the Signature Series will include 2 total trophy events and 5 Nightly \$135 Deep Stack tournaments.

Traditionally this Signature Series includes multiple weekends and 8 Trophy Events, but with Affinity Gaming transitioning into Twin River, the possibility of a two-day shut down in the middle of the originally scheduled series, along with other schedule conflicts means the remaining 7 days of the series will conclude in April 13-19.

Last April, Aaron Frei won his first MSPT trophy after winning the first \$360 MSPT Golden Gates Regional Event of Season 10 by defeating a 778-entrant field and in November he joined the club of back-to-back winners as he successfully defended his title to win the second \$360 MSPT Golden Gates Regional Event of the season after a four-way shop, earning \$36,607 as well as his second MSPT trophy and the title. The most recent November win attracted the second largest field in Colorado history with 915 entrants.

The MSPT Golden Gates \$360 Regional this upcoming January will feature four starting flights at Noon each day from Wednesday, January 15 through Saturday, January 18. The surviving players from each flight will then combine for Day 2 on Sunday, January 19 at 12:00 PM to play down to a winner.

In addition, the entire \$360 Regional Tournament will be live reported by PokerNews.com.



Aaron Frei



DATE	EVENT #	EVENT NAME	EVENT STARTS	GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL	STARTING CHIPS	LENGTH OF LEVELS
Wednesday, 1/15	1	\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		10,000	15
		\$360 MSPT Day 1A (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	25,000	30
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20
Thursday, 1/16	1	\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		10,000	15
		\$360 MSPT Day 1B (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	25,000	30
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20
Friday, 1/17	1	\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		10,000	15
		\$360 MSPT Day 1C (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	25,000	30
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20
Saturday, 1/18	1	\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		10,000	15
		\$360 MSPT Day 1D (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	25,000	30
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20
Sunday, 1/19	1	\$60 NLHE Casino Event	10:00 AM		5,000	15
		\$360 MSPT Day 2 (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000		30
		\$250 NLHE Sunday Feast (Trophy Event)	2:00 PM		15,000	30
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20

Event Recap

GERALD HEATH WINS 2019 MSPT WISCONSIN STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP (\$130,935)

BY MSPT STAFF

It was a long journey to the finish line at the 2019 MSPT Wisconsin State Poker Championship \$1,100 Main Event as 660 entries came out to Milwaukee's Potawatomi Hotel & Casino. Seventy-eight returned for Day 2, and it took more than 18 levels for a winner to be determined.

Gerald Heath was that winner, coming out on top for a first-place prize of \$130,935. Heath agreed after the tournament that it was a long weekend, but had more commentary to add on said weekend: "Best ever for me, man. No doubt."

Day 2 Action

The clock was turned back from the 15 levels that played to completion over the first two starting flights as the final heat reached a hard stop shortly before the end of Level 14. Of the 78 to return, 72 players were set to make it into the money. Play started slowly due to the extended time, and the bubble burst shortly before the end of Level 16 after nearly two full levels of play.

Players dropped quickly upon reaching the money, but the pace of play steadied again not long after. It took three more hours for the field to be halved, and Heath rode a small roller coaster through that time. He chipped up from his start-of-day 196,000 to 288,000 in the first couple hours and then won a huge coin flip with ace-king to pocket queens after hitting a king on the river to become one of the chip leaders in the tournament.

However, Heath then lost half his stack and hung around until 15 players remained, scoring another double through Li Shen. Meanwhile, other players such as Yao Yin, Josh Reichard, and Wai Ngai all began leading charges to eclipse 2 million in chips.

The Final Table

When the final table was reached, Heath was seventh in



Gerald Heath

chips with just under 1 million. Gary Herstein quickly found a double with two jacks, getting stacks in preflop against Reichard's tens. Shortly thereafter, short-stacked Alin Cotolan also doubled but found himself bounced from the tournament a half-hour later in 10th place.

Play continued to progress slowly with small pots being the norm, and stacks evened out as the blinds continued to escalate. It was another hour before Luke Goodwillie would bow out at the expense of Heath, and nearly another hour passed by from there before Paul Camby and Shen were eliminated in short succession.

When six-handed play began, Heath had pulled away as the chip leader. Yin was the next to be eliminated after folding down to one big blind, and play went on with more small pots that led to all five remaining stacks pulling nearly even. Nearly 90 minutes later, Reichard took fifth place when he shoved jack-ten into Ngai's ace-seven. He flopped a ten on a

Potawatomi Casino

board that also gave Ngai a gutshot straight draw, and he turned another ten to leave Ngai with four outs. However, one of those outs hit on the river to knock out the former MSPT champion.

Another full level then went by, bringing the average stack in the tournament to only 15 big blinds with no significant pots played. Then came the turning point in the tournament; Heath and Nicola Ditrapani had both pulled away from Ngai and Herstein a bit, and the two chip leaders got stacks in the middle on a king-five-four flop with two hearts. Ditrapani had queen-ten suited for a flush draw and Heath held a set of fives. Heath held and found himself with a huge chip advantage.

Some back-and-forth action went on between the now-three small stacks, with Herstein being the next one to bust. Ten minutes later, Heath knocked out Ngai and entered the heads-up match with all but three big blinds worth of chips in play. It wasn't long before Ditrapani got his last chips in with jack-nine, only to run into Heath's queen-jack. No help came and Heath claimed the title.

When asked about what he is going to do with the money, Heath said he is going to pay a few bills and help his kids.



Potawatomi Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 660 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Gerald Heath	Naperville, IL	\$130,935
2	Nicola Ditrapani	Rolling Meadows, IL	\$79,838
3	Wai Ngai	Brooklyn, NY	\$59,399
4	Gary Herstein	Chicago, IL	\$44,070
5	Josh Reichard	Janesville, WI	\$33,212
6	Yao Yin	La Crosse, WI	\$24,909
7	Li Shen	Wilmette, IL	\$19,161
8	Paul Camby	Guernville, CA	\$15,329
9	Luke Goodwillie	Highland Park, IL	\$11,497
10	Alin Cotolan	Chicago, IL	\$9,582

The win was Heath's second victory of the year, saying he took down a tournament recently for around \$16,000.

"It's been a good year." 🎖️



Final Table



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Event Preview

\$1,000,000 GTD MSPT POKER BOWL IV TO TAKE PLACE AT THE VENETIAN LAS VEGAS JAN. 29 - FEB. 1

BY MSPT STAFF

For the fourth year in a row, the MSPT and the Venetian in Las Vegas are joining forces to offer a great tournament over the NFL's Super Bowl Weekend.

The \$1,100 buy-in Poker Bowl IV will feature a \$1,000,000 guarantee and offer three starting flights. Day 1A will take place at Noon local time on Wednesday, January 29, while Day 1B & 1C will take place at the same time on Thursday, Jan. 30 and Friday, Jan. 31. The surviving players from both flights will then return for Day 2 at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1 and play down to a winner.

That ensures players will be free on Sunday so they can enjoy Super Bowl LIV, which is being held on February 2 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

The entirety of the tournament, which will feature 40-minute levels and start players with 20,000 in chips, will be live reported on msptpoker.com.

In 2017, the inaugural MSPT Poker Bowl I attracted 695 entries and saw poker pro Jordan Young take home \$117,381 after a heads-up deal with Ankush Mandavia, who earned \$107,381. First place was scheduled to pay \$139,624. Last year's event, which attracted 1,022 runners, it was Brian Wilson of Ontario, Canada, taking home \$143,929 after a three-way deal.

"For the seventh year in a row, the MSPT will return to the Venetian Las Vegas," said MSPT President Bryan Mileski. "Each year only seems to get bigger and better, and we're



Brian Wilson

expecting that to continue in Season 11 beginning with the Poker Bowl IV. Unless you're at the game itself, there's no better place to take in the Super Bowl than in Las Vegas."

The MSPT Poker Bowl IV is a part of The Venetian's 2020 Deepstack Extravaganza Poker Series, which runs from January 27 through March 1 and will offer \$3.3 million in guaranteed tournament prize pools.

Check out msptpoker.com for special suite rates, view full schedule, structures and additional details. 🎰



Event Recap

ANTHONY DUNNE WINS MSPT SEASON 10 FINALE AT CANTERBURY PARK (\$155,288)

BY MSPT STAFF



Anthony Dunne

Season 10 of the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) ended Sunday, December 8 at Minnesota's Canterbury Park. The \$1,100 buy-in Main Event cruised by its \$500K guarantee by attracting 802 entries, and after a long Day 2, it was Anthony Dunne coming out on top to capture a \$155,288 first-place prize.

Dunne, who doesn't have any other documented tournament cashes on HendonMob, defeated a tough final table that included three former MSPT champs, two of which were also former Players of the Year. Still, Dunne outlasted them all to claim the title and six-figure score.

Day 2 Action

On Sunday, 105 players returned to action, but with only 81 slated to get paid two dozen of them were destined to leave empty-handed. Among those to fall short of the money were Minnesota Poker Hall of Famer Kou Vang, former MSPT Grand Falls champ Ahmed Taleb, and bubble boy Brian

Zupancich, who lost a flip with Big Slick to Steve Webb's pocket jacks.

Among those to finish in the money but fall short of the final table were Day 1b chip leader Phil Mader (15th - \$9,318), former MSPT Canterbury Park champs Jon Kim (16th - \$7,764) and Rob Wazwaz (20th - \$6,522), Luke Vrabel (26th - \$4,503), poker reporter Brandon Temple (27th - \$4,503), WSOP bracelet winner Derek McMaster (32nd - \$3,416), MSPT Season 10 POY Mike Shin (35th - \$3,416), Day 1a chip leader Bill Kachel (40th - \$2,873), Day 1c chip leader John Reading (65th - \$2,329), and Craig Trost (78th - \$2,174).

Peter Kuretsky was the first to fall at the final table after his pocket queens were beaten when Aaron Johnson's jacks made a spade flush, and then Chan Pelton followed him out the door after losing with queen-ten suited all in preflip against Andrew Johnson's ace-four.

After Dunne limped the small blind with ace-ten suited,

Canterbury Park

Ian Matakis raised all in from the big blind with ten-four of clubs. Dunne called and his hand held to send Matakis to the rail in eighth place.

From there, short-stacked Yevgeniy Minakrin called off with nine-three from the big blind after Josh Damm, who had jacks, had shoved the small. The fishhooks held and Minakrin had to settle for seventh place.

Andrew Johnson then lost with ace-six to Dunne's queens to bust in sixth, and Damm bowed out in fifth after flopping top pair of queens and getting it in against Rich Alsup's bottom two pair. Four-handed play then lasted for a while before Steve Wilkie, who had won the prior MSPT stop at Colorado's Golden Gates, missed a flush draw against Alsup's top pair. Wilkie saw his hopes of becoming just the second player to win back-to-back MSPT Main Events go up in smoke, but he had \$51,944 in prize money to help ease the pain.

Likewise, Aaron Johnson came close to winning his second title of the season but got unlucky to fall in third after his ace-queen fell to Dunne's queen-jack after a brutal jack on the river. Johnson, who won \$69,880 for his deep run, wound up finishing second on the MSPT Season 10 Player of the Year leaderboard behind Mike Shin, an impressive feat considering Johnson won it last year.

Dunne entered heads-up play against Alsup, a former



Canterbury Park

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 802 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Anthony Dunne	Minneapolis, MN	\$155,288
2	Richard Alsup	New Hope, MN	\$95,502
3	Aaron Johnson	Red Wing, MN	\$69,880
4	Steve Wilkie	Arvada, CO	\$51,944
5	Joshua Damm	Fairbault, MN	\$39,598
6	Andrew Johnson	West St. Paul, MN	\$30,281
7	Yevgeniy Minakrin	Eagan, MN	\$23,293
8	Ian Matakis	Fairbault, MN	\$17,858
9	Chan Pelton	College Station, TX	\$13,976
10	Peter Kuretsky	Plymouth, MN	\$11,569

MSPT Meskwaki champ, with a big chip lead and closed it out holding king-jack against ace-five all in preflop. A jack on the turn was the final nail in the coffin for the MSPT Season 6 POY, who extended his lead atop the MSPT's all-time money list with a \$95,502 score for finishing as runner-up. 🏆



Final Table

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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Season 10 Final Standings

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Mike Shin	5,725
2	Aaron Johnson	4,442
3	Adam Friedman	3,500
4	Andy Tran	3,450
5	Matt Kirby	3,425
6	Brian Wilson	3,250
7	Brian Hou	3,000
8	Steve Wilkie	2,900
9	Richard Alsup	2,800
	Ian Matakis	2,800
11	Alex Winter	2,750
12	Eric Baldwin	2,700
13	DJ Buckley	2,692
14	Chris Moon	2,400
15	Daniel Bekavac	2,300
	Rudy Sawa	2,300
17	Saad Ghanem	2,217
18	Jeremy Brown	2,200
19	Jeffrey Hill	2,150
	Jason Trezak	2,150
21	John Sun	2,050
22	Mazen Abdallah	2,000
	Linglin Zeng	2,000
24	Jon Hanner	1,900
25	Tom Stambaugh	1,883



Mike Shin - 2019 Season 10 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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MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of December 31, 2019

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Richard Alsup	\$778,425
2	Pavel Plesuv	\$681,212
3	Michael Soyza	\$592,137
4	Blake Bohn	\$495,686
5	David Levine	\$495,500
6	Mike Shin	\$478,674
7	Thomas Boivin	\$461,505
8	Mazen Abdallah	\$445,000
9	Aaron Johnson	\$441,610
10	Felipe Davila	\$427,942
11	Kou Vang	\$406,099
12	Nadar Kakhmazov	\$395,888
13	Linglin Zeng	\$393,506
14	Yat Cheng	\$392,806
15	Andrew Rubinberg	\$386,537
16	Jeremy Saderne	\$373,410
17	Aaron Massey	\$369,373
18	Carl Carodenuto	\$358,241
19	Alessio Sabatini	\$356,000
20	Chris Moon	\$352,702
21	Matt Kirby	\$345,749
22	Adam Friedman	\$343,780
23	Keven Stammen	\$334,261
24	Peixin Liu	\$318,857
25	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
26	Rob WazWaz	\$315,263
27	Matthew Stammen	\$312,298
28	Mukul Pahuja	\$308,643
29	Sean Davidson	\$306,265
30	Michael Shelton	\$302,020
31	Jason Zarlenga	\$298,379
32	James Romero	\$297,580
33	Sheddy Siddiqui	\$297,398
34	John Sun	\$283,786
35	Mike Shanahan	\$280,798
36	Jeremy Dresch	\$276,265
37	Chris Meyers	\$274,479
38	Lou Garza	\$269,639
39	Bobby Noel	\$262,145
40	Osama Aweida	\$242,330
41	Alex Foxen	\$239,000
42	Keith Heine	\$238,292
43	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
44	Greg Himmelbrand	\$234,062
45	Maury Solano	\$228,817
46	Richard Bai	\$226,044
47	Jonathan Kim (MN)	\$221,637
48	Mark Brazis	\$221,323
49	Joni Jouhkimainen	\$221,304
50	DJ Buckley	\$220,309



Rich Alsup - Minneapolis, MN



Pavel Plesuv - Moldova, Prague

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