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Chris Moon

SHIPS LARGEST MSPT EVER OUTSIDE OF LAS VEGAS, \$258,407!

MARK JAROSLAWSKI
WINS MSPT
CANTERBURY PARK

SERGIO MIRELES
SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE CHAMP

POTAWATOMI
REGIONAL
JULY 17-21

IOWA STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 26-28



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Letter From the Publisher

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Wow, we've had some exciting action late April into May that you'll get to read about in this issue.

Blake Bohn of Eden Prairie, MN picked up another cash in May at FireKeepers Casino giving him twenty-two career MSPT Main Event cashes (5th all-time) to go along with nine MSPT final tables (3rd), \$485,398 MSPT earnings (5th) and three titles (tied 1st), leaving him just three cashes or one final table shy of being the next player to earn a spot in the MSPT Hall of Fame.

DJ Buckley also of Eden Prairie, MN picked up another cash at Canterbury Park in late April when he placed runner-up for \$59,160. Buckley now has twenty-three MSPT Main Event cashes (4th all-time), six final tables (5th) and \$196,024 MSPT career earnings (49th).

The MSPT FireKeepers event in May was a record setting affair attracting 1,592 entrants for the \$1,100 buy-in event. Chris Moon of Sterling Heights, MI earned the win and \$258,407 just days after housing a HPT event for \$183,899. For Moon, this was his eighth MSPT Main Event cash, second final table and he now has \$344,628 in earnings on the MSPT. Read more about Moon's accomplishment and the historic event at FireKeepers Casino on Pages 12-13.

Mark Jaroslowski of Stillwater, MN completed the victory in the second MSPT Main Event held at Canterbury Park in Season 10. Jaroslowski outlasted 450-runners to take home \$95,700! For Jaroslowski this was his second MSPT cash and first final table. Read more about this great performance on Pages 4-5.

The 2019 South Dakota State Poker Championship at Silverado Casino attracted 258 entrants for the \$1,100 buy-in Main Event, all chasing the best double-pistol trophy in the game. When the smoke cleared it was Sergio Mireles of Newcastle, Wyoming who was the last person standing. Get all the details on Pages 8-9. 🎰



Blake Bohn



DJ Buckley



MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

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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.

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Event Recap

MARK JAROSLAWSKI WINS MSPT 147 AT CANTERBURY PARK

BY MSPT STAFF

Mark Jaroslowski of Stillwater, Minnesota, navigated a grueling MSPT Canterbury Park this weekend, shipping the title and \$95,700 after a five-and-a-half hour battle at the final table. His unorthodox style of making large bet sizes preflop worked to his advantage, and he explained them by saying, "I like to play big pots, I like to mix it up, catch somebody off guard. My motto was 'No free cards anymore,' because Day 1 on Friday, I lost six pots early, all because I got rivered as I let them get there. I decided after that, just hammer down."

Jaroslowski knew that he was in for a challenge when reaching the final table of ten, as he came in eighth in chips with just under eleven big blinds, while the chip leaders Eric Eelkema and Thai Dinh were both sitting above fifty big blinds. "Everyone was great, I came in short-stacked, I was just looking to double up and grind from there. A couple players got knocked out early, and I just picked up some pots and was fortunate enough to get some cards to just push all in with." When asked what he would do with his windfall, he said, "Pay some stuff off, maybe go on vacation in a few weeks, have a fun summer obviously!"

Day 2 saw 59 players return to Canterbury Park in search of an MSPT title, which meant that fourteen unfortunate players would leave empty-handed, including MSPT Hall of Famers Kou Vang and Aaron Johnson, 2017 MNPokerMag POY Todd Melander, Nghia "3-Putts" Le, and co-bubble boys Tony Hartmann and Jeremy Calverley.

From there, a host of notables walked away with a cash, including final table bubble boy Ryan Ellison (11th - \$6,960), Day 1A chip leader David Pederson (13th - \$5,655), Brad Sailor (15th - \$5,655), WSOP Bracelet winner John Reading (17th - \$4,785), Season 7 MSPT Meskwaki champ Keith Heine (19th - \$4,090), Colorado's Sammy Aweida (20th - \$4,090), two-time MSPT champs Jeremy Dresch (22nd - \$3,524) and Ben Marsh (24th - \$3,524), Matthew Hamilton (27th - \$3,045), Season 9 MSPT Meskwaki champ Steve Federspiel (30th - \$2,601), three-time MSPT champ Matt Kirby (34th - \$2,601), former MSPT champ Ben Wiora (39th - \$2,392), Season 9 MSPT Canterbury Park champ Rob Wazwaz (41 - \$2,392), and former MSPT champ Tom Stambaugh (43rd - \$2,392).

Final Table Action

The first elimination at the final table wouldn't come until



Mark Jaroslowski

after a full level of play, as Plymouth, Minnesota native and final table short stack Gary Brakke got his last few blinds in with queen-ten, only to fall to the set of eights of DJ Buckley. The \$6,960 tenth-place finish marks Brakke's second career MSPT cash, after he finished 17th at the Season 9 MSPT Grand Falls Casino Regional event.

Brakke's elimination opened the floodgates, as the next three players to go would all fall within minutes of each other. First, Yao "YY" Yin's aces were cracked by Andy Tran, then he failed to spin his last few blinds up after losing a flip with ten-nine suited against Mark Jaroslowski's fours. Yin, a La Crosse, Wisconsin resident, notched his second career MSPT Final Table with his ninth-place performance, good for \$8,265.

Soon after, Randy Bullen's jacks were cooled when he ran into both Buckley's queens and Thai Dinh's ace-king. Dinh flopped an ace, and that was all she wrote for the Marne, Michigan product, taking home eighth-place and \$11,310. Bullen made his first MSPT Final Table in four cashes on tour.

The short stack exodus was complete a few hands later, when seventh-place finisher Gregory Kukowski three-bet shoved his queen-ten of clubs into Tran's king-jack of clubs, and Tran flopped a king to put an end to the Virginia, Min-

Canterbury Park

nesota native. This was Kukowski's first MSPT cash, good for \$14,355.

It would be two hours between bustouts after Kukowski exited, meaning the stacks became shallow as play became a grind to see who would be the first to blink. Tom Hammers was able to double a few times in that span, but finally succumbed in sixth-place for \$18,270 when his king-eight couldn't overcome the pocket nines of Buckley. Burnsville, Minnesota's Hammers was making his fourth appearance at a MSPT Final Table, the last coming in Season 7 at MSPT Meskwaki.

Tran would follow Hammers out the door a few hands later, his queen-jack no match for the pocket eights of Buckley. \$23,935 and fifth-place were Tran's consolation prize to take back to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and he recorded his second career MSPT cash.

The stacks had evened out by this point, and it would be an hour before Eric Eelkema's second deep run in the last year would come to an end, his sixes getting crushed by Buckley's eights. Notably, this marked Buckley's third KO at the final table with eights. Eelkema, who received \$31,755 for his fourth-place finish, finished third in Season 9's MSPT South Dakota State Poker Championship for \$28,420.

Thai Dinh, who had been on a tear in Minnesota, winning \$35,322 in a \$500 tournament just two weeks prior, couldn't find his second title of the month. His ace-trey was outkicked by Buckley's ace-seven, and Dinh settled for third-place and \$43,065.

Buckley started with a 5:4 lead in chips going into heads-up play, but Jaroslowski chipped away to take a sizable lead when the final hand of the tournament took place in Level 33 (150,000/300,000/40,000). Mark Jaroslowski jammed to put DJ



Canterbury Park

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 450 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Mark Jaroslowski	Stillwater, MN	\$95,700
2	DJ Buckley	Eden Prairie, MN	\$59,160
3	Thai Dinh	Duluth, MN	\$43,065
4	Eric Eelkema	Brooklyn Park, MN	\$31,755
5	Andy Tran	Eau Claire, WI	\$23,925
6	Tom Hammers	Burnsville, MN	\$18,270
7	Gregory Kukowski	Virginia, MN	\$14,355
8	Randy Bullen	Marne, MI	\$11,310
9	Yao Yin	La Crosse, WI	\$8,265
10	Gary Brakke	Plymouth, MN	\$6,960

Buckley at risk for his last 2.285 million, and Buckley called.

Jaroslowski: A♦K♥

Buckley: A♣10♥

"TENNNN!" Hammers exclaimed from the rail, but the Qs♠5♠7♣ flop brought no help for Buckley. The 8♥ on the turn meant Buckley needed a ten to stay alive, but the 9♥ river sent the title to Jaroslowski. Buckley, the most decorated member of this final table, with now over \$800,000 in lifetime tournament earnings as reported by Hendon Mob, took home \$59,160 for his runner-up performance, which marked his sixth MSPT Final Table and his 23rd MSPT Main Event cash, which moved him into a tie for fourth with Season 6 MSPT POY Mark Hodge for the most all-time. 🏆



Final Table



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Event Preview

MSPT 152 IOWA STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP AT MESKWAKI CASINO JULY 26-28

BY MSPT STAFF

The MSPT returns to Meskwaki Casino in Tama, Iowa for the 2019 Iowa State Poker Championship. Satellites kick off June 8th and will feed into the 23rd MSPT Main Event ever held at the venue. The \$1,100 buy-in, \$300,000 guaranteed Main Event will run the weekend of July 26-28.

Meskwaki has set aside a block of rooms for MSPT players at sensational rates. BUT this block of rooms always goes fast so reserve your room TODAY! Make sure you ask for the MID-STATES POKER TOUR room block or they may tell you the hotel is sold out.

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This past March, the first MSPT Meskwaki Casino event of Season 10 drew 409 entries and saw Steve Federspiel walk away with \$86,949. Prior to that, the 3rd and final MSPT event at Meskwaki Casino in Season 9 was hosted in November where Taylor Howard earned his first MSPT title by outlasting a 423-runner field to pocket \$89,939!

Last July, Minnesota's Brian Soja outlasted a 455-runner field to earn the 2018 Iowa State Poker Champion title as well as \$94,568!

The MSPT Meskwaki Main Event, which requires players be just 18 years old to play, will kick off with Day 1A on Friday, July 26. Day 1B will then take place on Saturday, July 27. Players who advance from each flight will combine on Sunday, July 28 at 11:00 a.m. and play until a champion is crowned. **The complete event schedule can be found at mspt-poker.com.**

The final table will be broadcast LIVE (15-minute delay) worldwide on msptpoker.com and [twitch.tv/msptpoker](https://www.twitch.tv/msptpoker) using RFID technology allowing all viewers to see the hole cards. In addition, the entire Main Event will be live reported in the MSPT live blog.

Located in Tama, Iowa—between Des Moines and Cedar Rapids on Highway 30—Meskwaki Casino, which was constructed in 1992, features a huge bingo hall, nine different types of table games, off-track betting, active craps tables, more than 1,350 slots, good blackjack games, horse book, indoor pool, exercise room, spa, and 404 hotel rooms.

The property also features Lucky's Grill & Taproom, which serves hearty breakfast entrees in the morning and their fa-



Brian Soja



mous Shredded Chicken Nachos Grande (and more) in the evening. Other favorites include the 100% Iowa Angus Beef Lucky's Steak Burger, handmade buttermilk dipped onion rings, Signature Pizzas, hot subs, and Fried Oreos. You can also enjoy a variety of 20 beers on tap (with 10 craft beers that are brewed in Iowa) all while watching your favorite team on one of 13 HDTVs. 🍷

Event Recap

SERGIO MIRELES WINS 2019 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MSPT STAFF

The 2019 MSPT South Dakota State Poker Championship saw 258 players hit the felt in search of the double-gun trophy and \$60,946. When the smoke had cleared, Sergio Mireles of Newcastle, Wyoming, steamrolled the final table to take home the championship.

"I'm overwhelmed," Mireles said about his victory. Mireles had shoulder surgery the week prior, and waited until Saturday to fire a bullet he earned from the monthly Thursday Night Deep Stack promotion at the Silverado-Franklin Casino that gave a seat away to the championship each month. He acknowledged his torrid run to the trophy, saying, "I've had a couple great runs before, like when I won the Deadwood Shootout a few years ago, but I never had a run like this, this was pretty good."

The trophy Mireles earned for securing the victory seemed just as sweet as the money, as he said, "I love the trophy, I've wanted one of those for five years since they started those. I knew I'd get one sometime." Mireles thanked his wife, who was on the rail through the entire final table, "She's my big supporter. And my little grandbabies, I've got half a dozen grandbabies that are all wondering what I'm doing right now. I hope they don't start playing poker, though!"

Day 2 saw 41 players return to the Silverado Poker Room, but only 27 would earn a cash. Among those to fall included Season 8 MSPT POY Chris Meyers, Ryan Remington, Travis Sweet, Tom Hammers, and bubble boy and former South Dakota State Poker Champ Cal Dardis, when his 7♦6♦ couldn't catch up to the A♥Q♦ of Leroy Dubray.

Some of those earning a cash before the final table commenced include final table bubble boy Jared Shipley (11th - \$4,478), start of the day chip leader Jason Trezak (12th - \$4,478), the aforementioned Dubray (14th - \$3,731), defending champ Rick Burleson (15th - \$3,731), Kenneth Lybeck (18th - \$3,209), Luke Blindert (22nd - \$2,289), former MSPT champ Rodger Johnson (23rd - \$2,289), and Nicole Eby (26th - \$2,090).

Final Table Action

Dave Word was the first to go at the final table, his queens getting cracked on a nine-high flop by Sergio Mireles. Word, from Pierre, South Dakota, cashed last year's championship here at Silverado-Franklin, finishing in 23rd place. He settled for tenth-place and \$4,478 in prize money in this year's



Sergio Mireles

edition.

Mikiyo Aoki, who started the final table as the short stack, managed one ladder before her ace-queen couldn't overcome Mireles, who once again was holding pocket nines. The Bozeman, Montana native earned \$5,473 for her ninth-place finish, her second cash on tour this season after finishing 73rd at the season-opening JACK Cleveland Casino Main Event.

The third knockout of the opening level came a short time later, as Pine Ridge, South Dakota native Donroy Ghost Bear's tens couldn't win a flip against the king-queen of Michael Woznicki to oust Ghost Bear in eighth for \$6,965. Ghost Bear, whose son Delbert also made it to Day 2, falling just short of a cash himself, recorded his first career MSPT cash.

Amazingly, a fourth knockout would happen before the level could come to a close, as tens proved to be the undoing of another final table player. Rudy Stanko ran into the set of queens of Woznicki, leaving him in seventh-place, and Stanko, from Gordon, Nebraska, settled for \$8,707 and his first career MSPT cash.

The next two players to go seemed to never get any traction going, as Aaron Hyndman bled down to just a few blinds before jamming king-nine into the pocket eights of Gabriel Flores, and Hyndman's first MSPT cash would be a sixth-

Silverado-Franklin Casino

place one when he failed to improve. The Worland, Wyoming native took home \$11,443 for his efforts.

Geddes, South Dakota's Travis Gant, Season 8 MSPT Grand Falls Regional champ, fell in fifth, running ace-eight into the pocket kings of Flores. Gant couldn't get any Dead-man's Hand magic going, and he settled for \$14,926 as a consolation prize, his first MSPT Main Event cash after notching three cashes at MSPT Grand Falls Regional Events.

Woznicki surged to holding half the chips in play five-handed, but a string of lost pots left him short when he jammed seven big blinds with queen-jack, only to run into the ace-jack of Mireles to record a fourth-place finish for \$19,901. Woznicki's only other MSPT cash on record was an 18th place finish at the Season 10 Grand Falls Regional event in March.

Flores would fall shortly thereafter, calling off his last ten big blinds on a king-high, all club flop with two sevens, only to run into Mireles and his king-nine. Mireles also held a club, and Flores, from Phoenix, Arizona, missed his one outer, and finished in third for \$27,115 and his first MSPT cash.

Michael Campbell, who finished fifth in this event last year, started heads up play down 4:1 in chips, and Mireles ground Campbell down to 700,000 at Level 27 (30,000/60,000/10,000), when Mireles raised to 150,000 on the button, then called the three-bet shove from Michael Campbell for 700,000 in the big blind.

Mireles: 8♣7♣



Silverado-Franklin Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 258 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Sergio Mireles	Newcastle, WY	\$60,946
2	Michael Campbell	Rapid City, SD	\$37,685
3	Gabriel Flores	Phoenix, AZ	\$27,115
4	Michael Woznicki	Wind Lake, WI	\$19,901
5	Travis Gant	Geddes, SD	\$14,926
6	Aaron Hyndman	Worland, WY	\$11,443
7	Rudy Stanko	Gordon, NE	\$8,707
8	Donroy Ghost Bear	Pine Ridge, SD	\$6,965
9	Mikiyo Aoki	Bozeman, MT	\$5,473
10	Dave Word	Pierre, NV	\$4,478

Campbell: A♣2♦

Campbell flopped bottom pair on the 4♦2♥K♦ flop, but Mireles picked up a gutshot on the 5♥ turn. Campbell couldn't fade the 8♠ river, and Campbell had to settle for a pair of very impressive deep runs at the South Dakota State Poker Championship. The runner-up performance and third MSPT Main Event Final Table for the Rapid City, South Dakota native netted a payday of \$37,685. 🎰



Final Table



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Event Preview

MSPT HEADS BACK TO MILWAUKEE'S POTAWATOMI HOTEL & CASINO JULY 17-21 FOR \$350 REGIONAL EVENT

BY MSPT STAFF

For the second time in Season 8, the MSPT is headed to Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This time, the downtown venue will play host to a \$350 buy-in, \$200,000 guaranteed MSPT Regional Event.

From July 17-21, a series of satellites will feed into the Regional Event, which will begin running June 10.

The first of three flights will be held on Thursday, July 18 with Day 1A at 5 p.m. Day 1A will play 15 levels. Friday's and Saturday's Day 1B and 1C will start at 5 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively and also play 15 levels. 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 a.m. and play until a champion is crowned.

The MSPT has hosted five previous Regional Events at Potawatomi. The first was back in January 2016 when Oscar Arndt topped a field of 904 entries to win a \$58,964 first-place prize. Six months later, it was Vinh Tran who conquered a then record field of 1,169 entries to win \$49,944.

In January 2017, Craig Trost bested 1,228 entrants—at the time the largest tournament by attendance ever held in Wisconsin—to take home a \$63,252 prize. However, the MSPT Regional in July 2017 saw 1,658 runners take to the felt, which created the largest poker tournament ever held in Wisconsin. That tournament ended in a chop between Matthew Vignali (\$70,240) and Alexander Hill (\$60,000). Then in July 2018, that event attracted the exact same number of runners to tie the state record—1,658—and saw Eric Barnes of Kenosha, WI walk away with \$70,151 after a 3-way chop.

The latest MSPT Potawatomi Regional, the sixth held at the venue, will be the 32nd Regional Event since their inception at the beginning of 2015. The Regional Events are designed to offer players the opportunity to play MSPT's lauded "Chainsaw-Approved" \$1,100 Main Event structure at a more affordable price point.

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino features six award-winning restaurants, the intimate 500-seat Northern Lights Theater and more than 60,000 sq. feet of event space. A 381-room, 19-story hotel opened in August 2014.

It has come a long way since its opening in 1991 when the Forest County Potawatomi first opened as a 45,800-square foot bingo hall, making it the first tribal off-reservation gaming operation in the country.



Matthew Vignali



Aside from gaming, Potawatomi offers seven great dining options to choose from including beautiful Italian cooking at Bella Italiana, down-home cooking at Canal Street Café, and authentic Asian cuisine and sushi bar at Ruyi.

For more information on this event, visit msptpoker.com.

Event Recap

"VALIDATION" AS CHRIS MOON SHIPS MSPT FIREKEEPERS, \$258,407!

BY MSPT STAFF

The 2019 MSPT FireKeepers Casino \$1,000,000 Guaranteed Main Event proved to be a monstrous affair, setting a record for the largest MSPT Main Event outside of Las Vegas, as 1,592 entrants hit the felt, creating an over \$1.5 million dollar prize pool!

Chris Moon, who days prior topped a field of 570 to take down the \$1,650 HPT Ameristar East Chicago for \$183,899, took down his second mid-major title of the week by shipping MSPT FireKeepers for a whopping \$258,407!

"Best week of my life!" Moon said about his two victories. Moon, who's "...been playing since I was trying not to get a job in high school, trying to play basement games and stuff." had an interactive and vocal rail cheering him on throughout the final table, which was an asset for Moon. "It was nice because at the HPT, no one from my family or circle was there, so it was like a really quiet gallery every time I won. So it was good to have friends here."

One of the biggest hands at the final table was when Moon doubled through Jeff Hill in a pot that contained half the chips in play six-handed. "Turning a set of jacks was huge. At that point I was still pretty confident that I was going to have a good result, it was just a matter of trying to keep first in chips off my back while taking advantage of third, fourth, and fifth in chips and it seemed like he was not willing to let up, and it just kinda worked out where I had a big hand, he had a big hand (Hill flopped a set of sevens in the hand), he kinda played it in a way where he was gonna try to get more value, and he got just the absolute worst turn in the deck. I don't know if there's a lot of turns where I'm going to go broke to him. It's such a nutty turn with the way all the chips were distributed at that point, we shouldn't want to be colliding between each other too much, but it's just crazy how it worked out where he ended up taking second anyway; you could not script it that way."

With a total of \$442,306 in earnings between the two wins in the last week, Moon reflected on his road to making it to this point. "I've got some plans for the money. Around this time last year, I wasn't doing so hot. I was really considering a change. I've got so many people just telling me, 'you should just be taking full time work,' and I dropped out of playing poker full time to start my own software company, and even that, people told me left and right, you should be taking full



Chris Moon

time work. It's just never been the way that I am, I kinda felt like my heart won't be in it and I won't work for it and die for it the way that I am right now if I'm not doing it full time for myself. It's just validation and then some."

Day 2 saw 202 players return, but only 171 would leave with a chunk of the prize pool. 31 players left empty-handed, including #MSPT100 champ Jason Ramos, WSOP Colossus II champ Ben Keeline, Ralph Massey, and bubble boy Griff Woodman, when his suited Big Slick ran into the tens of Frederic Kohagen. Kohagen flopped a set, and Woodman was left just short of the money.

Final Table Action

Grand Haven, Michigan native Damon Chittenden started the Final Table as the short stack, and couldn't get any traction, as he lost a flip with ace-king suited to Jeff Hill's pocket eights. Chittenden's first MSPT cash was for \$20,055, besting a career-high \$17,751 for an 18th place finish at a WSOPC event in 2017.

Iowa's Jason Bender would be the next to go after losing a massive pot with the nut flush draw against Hill's ace-king on a king-high flop. Bender would fail to find a club, and Hill secured his second KO of the final table with Big Slick. Bender's \$26,227 for ninth place was his fifth MSPT Final Table,

FireKeepers Casino

and his second biggest cash on tour since a third place finish at Canterbury Park in Season 7.

A short time later, Jason Johnson's ace-jack couldn't overcome Chris Moon's queens to leave Johnson with just a single big blind, and he fell in short order afterward, settling for eighth place and \$32,398. The Waterford, Michigan native's third MSPT cash was by far his best, besting a 172nd place finish at the \$1,600 MSPT Venetian Event last season.

Moon notched his second consecutive knockout shortly after when his ace-queen bested the ace-nine of Day 1B chip leader Ibrahim Shoubah, leaving the Dearborn, Michigan native in seventh place and \$41,654 richer. This marks Shoubah's second straight cash here at MSPT FireKeepers events, after finishing 96th in the 2018 Michigan State Poker Championship.

Sultan Ahmed's first MSPT Final Table came to an end next in sixth, falling to Moon one hand after his ace-eight couldn't overcome the ace-jack of Ryan Awwad. The Madison, Wisconsin resident cashed for \$52,543 and his first ever MSPT cash.

It would be almost ninety minutes before Rudy Sawa's king-jack failed to catch up to Hill's king-queen, and Sawa ended up finishing in fifth place for \$69,423. The Commerce Township, Michigan native added to his over \$250,000 in career tournament earnings with his first MSPT cash.

2018 MSPT Michigan State Poker champ Matthew Stammen of Coldwater, Ohio made an incredibly impressive return trip to FireKeepers, battling all the way down to the final four before finally succumbing to a turned Awwad set that left him with crumbs. Stammen, who took home \$91,022, has played three MSPT events in his career, and with those three events, he has one win, two final tables, and already sits eighteenth on the MSPT Career Earnings list with two huge cashes in a one year span!

Awwad was the next to go in three-handed play, getting unlucky when his ace-seven couldn't hold up against Moon's king-jack. Awwad, who finished sixteenth in this event last year for his biggest ever career cash, was able to vastly improve on that score with the \$120,334 going back to Ann Arbor, Michigan with him.

Augusta, Michigan's Hill was the last to fall before Moon's victory was com-



FireKeepers Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 1,592 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Chris Moon	Sterling Heights, MI	\$258,407
2	Jeffrey Hill	Battle Creek, MI	\$158,902
3	Ryan Awwad	Ann Arbor, MI	\$120,334
4	Matthew Stammen	Coldwater, OH	\$91,022
5	Rudy Sawa	Commerce Township, MI	\$69,423
6	Sultan Ahmed	Madison, WI	\$52,543
7	Ibrahim Shoubah	Dearborn, MI	\$41,654
8	Jason Johnson (MI)	Waterford, MI	\$32,398
9	Jason Bender	Keota, IA	\$26,227
10	Damon Chittenden	Grand Haven, MI	\$20,055

plete. In the final hand of the tournament, Moon limped in from the button, and Hill raised to 1.2 million in the big blind. Moon called.

Hill bet 1.3 million on the 7♠3♠6♠ flop, and Moon called.

Hill bet 2.1 million when the 5♥ fell on the turn, and Moon eyed up Hill's remaining 4.5 million chips before announcing "All in." Hill quickly called.

Hill: 10♠4♠

Moon: 9♠8♦

"He's dead! LET'S GO BABY!" Moon yelled when he saw that Hill's seven-high straight was drawing dead to his own nine-high straight. The 8♠ river sealed the victory for Moon and left Hill going back to Augusta, Michigan with \$158,902. 🎰



Final Table



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Day-1D: Fri. June 21.....	4:00 PM
Day-1E: Sat. June 22.....	10:00 AM
Day-1F: Sat. June 22.....	4:00 PM
Day-2: Sun. June 23.....	2:00 PM

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**LATE NIGHT PROGRESSIVE
BOARD:** Nightly • 10PM - 6AM



Strategy presented by Jonathan Little

HOW DOES ONE CHECK BACK ACES?

BY MSPT STAFF

In Level 14 (1,500/3,000/3,000) of the MSPT Canterbury Park, Paul Eidem (128,000) raised to 8,000 holding the A♣A♥ in the hijack and David Pederson (228,000) called from the big blind with the K♣9♣.

Pederson flopped a flush draw on the 4♣2♣4♥ flop and check-called a bet of 8,000. When the 7♣ peeled off on the turn, Pederson checked his flush and just called when Eidem bet 16,000.

The K♦ river saw Pederson check for the third time and Eidem checked behind before watching his pocket rockets go down in flames at showdown.

“Oh no,” Pederson exclaimed realizing he missed value on the river.

MSPT: What are your thoughts on Pederson defending with king-nine suited?

Little: I think the preflop call is perfectly standard. If you fold hands like K9s, you are folding way too often. Three-betting does not make sense because if your three-bet is called, or four-bet, you are in terrible shape. Three-betting essentially forces the opponent to play perfectly, which is usually not a good result because you make money when your opponent makes mistakes.

How do you feel about Pederson’s play on the turn after making the flush? Are you ok with the check-call or would you like to see a check-raise?

Little: I actually think the flush draw should have at least considered check-min-raising the flop because the big blind has way more 4x than the initial raiser, giving him a sizable nut advantage. Check-min-raising with a large chunk of your continuing range including trips and draws, turns much of your opponent’s range into bluff catchers.

On the turn, I would have certainly check-raised in order to build a big pot with my strong hands, but calling could be fine if the opponent will either value bet or bluff much too often on the river.

Are you surprised by Eidem’s check back on the river holding aces down? What would you be thinking in that spot?

Little: I think the check behind with aces is a bit tight, especially since the opponent did not check-raise the flop or turn (either of which would be a common way to play a flush). Many players will have mostly marginal made hands



Paul Eidem



David Pederson

in this situation, making aces the effective nuts. That said, if you know your opponent plays passively and simply does not raise with anything on the flop and turn, checking behind on the river has much more merit because the opponent’s check-calling range contains many premium hands.

PokerCoaching.com is an interactive poker learning experience from two-time WPT Champion Jonathan Little. Try it for free at PokerCoaching.com/mspt. PokerCoaching.com is the OFFICIAL TRAINING SITE of the MSPT. 🎰

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MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of May 31, 2019

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Pavel Plesuv	\$681,212
2	Richard Alsup	\$667,614
3	Michael Soyza	\$588,249
4	David Levine	\$495,500
5	Blake Bohn	\$485,398
6	Thomas Boivin	\$450,355
7	Felipe Davila	\$408,589
8	Kou Vang	\$403,968
9	Nadar Kakhmazov	\$395,888
10	Yat Cheng	\$392,806
11	Andrew Rubinberg	\$386,537
12	Jeremy Saderne	\$364,573
13	Carl Carodenuto	\$358,241
14	Aaron Massey	\$349,028
15	Chris Moon	\$344,628
16	Peixin Liu	\$318,857
17	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
18	Matthew Stammen	\$309,587
19	Mukul Pahuja	\$304,491
20	Rob WazWaz	\$302,424
21	Jason Zarlenga	\$298,379
22	James Romero	\$294,445
23	Mike Shanahan	\$278,607
24	Matt Kirby	\$278,448
25	Jeremy Dresch	\$276,265
26	Aaron Johnson	\$273,146
27	Chris Meyers	\$272,282
28	Lou Garza	\$269,639
29	Osama Aweida	\$242,330
30	Alex Foxen	\$239,000
31	Keith Heine	\$235,580
32	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
33	Greg Himmelbrand	\$231,690
34	Maury Solano	\$228,817
35	Richard Bai	\$226,044
36	Mark Brazis	\$221,323
37	Joni Jouhkimainen	\$221,304
38	Travis Lauson	\$220,117
39	Adam Friedman	\$216,732
40	Glen Nguyen	\$215,430
41	Daniel Bekavac	\$211,429
42	John Hayes	\$209,395
43	Keven Stammen	\$207,400
44	Hao "John" Sun	\$205,641
45	Kristen Bicknell	\$203,729
46	Brett Blackwood	\$199,508
47	Thupten Thondup	\$198,015
48	Scott Massimiano	\$197,833
49	DJ Buckley	\$196,024
50	Mark Sandness	\$195,254



Pavel Plesuv - Moldova, Prague



Rich Alsup - New Hope, MN

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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Season 10 Standings as of May 31

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Brian Wilson	3,250
2	Brian Hou	2,250
3	Jeremy Brown	2,100
4	Mike Shin	1,975
5	Chris Moon	1,900
6	Scott Vetter	1,800
	Sean Munjal	1,800
8	Daniel Bekavac	1,700
	Jeffrey Hill	1,700
	Pedro Mendes	1,700
11	Matt Kirby	1,675
12	Kou Vang	1,650
13	Ryan Awwad	1,600
	Anthony Carbone	1,600
	Eli Ross	1,600
16	Steve Federspiel	1,575
17	Tom Stambaugh	1,550
18	Adam Friedman	1,500
	Matthew Stammen	1,500
	Mark Jaroslowski	1,500
	Eddy Sabat	1,500
	Spencer Alexander	1,500



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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MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT MAIN EVENT CASHES

Leaders as of May 31, 2019

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



Aaron Johnson - Red Wing, MN



Kou Vang - Maplewood, MN

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