



# MSPT

## MID-STATES POKER TOUR

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POKER TOUR**

MAY 2019



# Dan Bekavac

**EARNs SECOND MSPT TITLE IN WISCONSIN**

**STEVE FEDERSPIEL  
BREAKS OUT  
AT MESKWAKI**

**TWO \$3M GTD  
EVENTS AT VENETIAN  
THIS JUNE**

**BRIAN HUE  
WINS AT  
GOLDEN GATES**

**REGIONAL BACK  
IN EVANSVILLE  
MAY 22-26**





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# Letter From the Publisher

## MAY 2019

We are officially 1/3 of the way through Season 10 and it has been an exciting start so far! Brian Wilson of Ontario, Canada is also off to a hot start, currently leading the Hayvin Player of the Year race with 3,200 points. Wilson won the MSPT The Venetian Las Vegas Poker Bowl by defeating a 1,022-entrant field for \$143,929 and placed fourth in the MSPT 2019 Milwaukee Poker Open at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino for \$42,333!

Jeremey Brown of Bloomington, IN has also reached two final tables thus far in Season 10, first placing fourth at Majestic Star Casino for \$22,655 and sixth at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino for \$24,190. Brown currently sits second on the POY leaderboard with 2,100 points.

Through April 27, Wilson and Brown are the only two that have reached multiple final tables in Season 10. The record for final tables reached in a season is four accomplished by Michigan's Pat Steele and Minnesota's Brett Kuznia—who both achieved the feat in the same season, way back in Season 4.

Matt Kirby of Bemidji, MN won his third MSPT title by winning MSPT 143 in February at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, MN for \$99,573! Kirby became just the third ever to achieve this feat, the other two being Blake Bohn and Carl Carodenuto. Nobody has yet won four titles.

The largest event so far in Season 10 was the MSPT Poker Bowl at The Venetian Las Vegas in February that attracted 1,022 runners, the largest Poker Bowl to date! The MSPT JACK Cleveland Casino also set a property attendance record for a major (\$1K+ buy-in) when 725 entrants hit the felt, up from 581 in 2018.

For a complete listing of all MSPT records and leaderboards, check out the Leaderboards tab at [msptpoker.com](http://msptpoker.com). 🎰



Brian Wilson



Matt Kirby



**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](http://msptpoker.com), we are the Nation's #1 Poker Tour.

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## Event Recap

# STEVE FEDERSPIEL BREAKS OUT AND TAKES DOWN MSPT MESKWAKI, \$86,949

BY MSPT STAFF

The first of three MSPT Main Events at Meskwaki Casino and Bingo Hall in Season 10 saw 409 players hit the felt in search of an MSPT Main Event title, and after two days of play, Tiffin, Iowa's Steve Federspiel, a forty-seven year old lender at a credit union, made his second MSPT Meskwaki final table count, as he took down the Main Event after a grueling final table.

"I feel really good, I'm excited! I've wanted this for a long time. I love the MSPT, and I'm really excited to win this because there's so many good players at this event." Federspiel said while reflecting on his victory. "I sucked out a few times, but overall I played pretty decent. I was trying to mix it up, I thought I had a few good reads on some of the players, and I did a few unorthodox plays."

One of the unorthodox plays he talked about was when he tried to bluff Joe Walters in a hand with just six players remaining. "I couldn't pull off the three-barrel bluff, I was almost positive he had a flush draw there, I just thought really, at that time, I could probably get the chips back. I'm sure everybody watching thought I was insane, I'm bluffing with nothing." During Level 28 (40,000/80,000/10,000), Walters raised to 175,000 UTG and Federspiel called in the big blind. On the 3♣4♦K♥ flop, Federspiel check-raised a 150,000 bet from Walters to 375,000, and Walters called. "Then I fire again on the turn, at that point I really thought he had the diamond flush draw." Federspiel bet 400,000 when the 4♠ fell, and Walters called again. After the 8♠ river, "I just couldn't fire it." The hand was checked down, and Federspiel's jack-high was bested by the A♦5♦ of Walters. "I'm going to have to think about that one for a while."

Federspiel's aggression paid off in the end, however, as he ground his opponents down and ultimately prevailed. He had modest plans for the windfall. "I work at the Credit Union, so it's going in there tomorrow. Nothing really exciting, might buy my niece and nephews something." Federspiel, a self-appointed "unfortunate" Raiders fan, was complimentary of the staff at Meskwaki: "Tama's dealers are so awesome."

Federspiel's bread and butter actually turns out to be cash; "I play mostly cash actually, I just travel around to some of the bigger tournaments. I love playing here." Federspiel, who now boasts \$118,312 in career MSPT earnings, closed



Steve Federspiel

his remarks on his win with this; "Hopefully I can do it again sometime!"

Day 2 saw 59 players return to the felt, but with only 45 spots paid, a few players had to head home without a cash, including reigning MSPT Player of the Year Aaron Johnson, former MSPT champs Ahmed Taleb and Rob Wazwaz, and bubble boy Chad Willett, when his 10♦9♠ couldn't overcome the A♥Q♠ of Steve Anderson.

Players fell at a steady pace once the bubble burst, and some notables that took home a chunk of the prize pool include final table bubble boy Joe Barnard (11th - \$6,324), Season 10 MSPT Majestic Star champ Mike Shin (12th - \$6,324), Alex "F'n" Winter (14th - \$5,138), two-time MSPT Meskwaki Final Tablist Kevin Berthelsen (15th - \$5,138), start of the day chip leader Jason Bender (18th - \$4,348), Season 7 MSPT Meskwaki champ Ken Komberec (21st - \$3,715), three-time MSPT champ Blake Bohn (23rd - \$3,201), Season 7 Iowa State Poker champ Hao "John" Sun (24th - \$3,201), Season 9 Iowa State Poker champ Brian Soja (28th - \$2,371), Season 10 MSPT Grand Falls Regional champ Eric Atchison (29th - \$2,371), Nick Pupillo (30th - \$2,371), Season 7 MSPT Meskwaki Keith Heine (35th - \$2,371), DJ Buckley (41st - \$2,174), and Tim Garles (43rd - \$2,174).



# Meskwaki Casino

## Final Table Action

The first player to fall was Stephen Lewis, the result of his queens getting cracked by the ace-queen of Jordan Miller. An ace on the flop spelled doom for Lewis, who notched his first MSPT cash with his tenth place finish for \$6,324.

Shortly after, Day 1B chip leader Shane Battani three-bet jammed with ace-nine after Joe Walters raised on the button, but Walters woke up with ace-queen and sent Battani out the door in ninth, good for \$7,509 and his first career MSPT cash.

Miller fell in two hands, after being crippled by Tom Stambaugh in a flip with ace-king against queens, then losing his last few antes in the very next hand. Miller took home \$10,276 for his eighth place finish, and Miller, who was appearing in his second MSPT Final Table, is still looking to improve on his career-best MSPT cash from MSPT Evansville in Season 7 for \$11,213.

Nghia "3-Putts" Le was the next to hit the rail, when his king-queen was crushed by the sevens of Walters when Walters flopped a full house. 3-Putts found his second cash of Season 10 with his seventh place finish, and the \$13,043 prize money was the largest MSPT cash of his career.

Mike Rieck ran into a similar situation when his king-queen ran into the pocket eights of Stambaugh, and Stambaugh flopped a set to send the affable Rieck to the rail in sixth. Rieck, who took down \$16,600 for his finish, earned his third career MSPT cash and first career MSPT Final Table with the result.

Brad Sailor ripped his last ten bigs in with king-six, and Steve Federspiel made the call with ace-three. Neither player improved, and Sailor had to settle for fifth place and \$21,738 in prize money. Sailor's second career MSPT final table earned him a career-best cash and brought him above \$50,000 in career earnings.

Stambaugh, a former MSPT Main Event champ, was the next to go, after committing his stack on a king-jack-eight flop with queen-jack, and Walters looked him up with king-six. Stambaugh couldn't improve, and he had to settle for \$28,852 and fourth place. Stambaugh broke the \$100k career earnings marker with his finish.

Three handed play turned when Federspiel took a big pot off of Walters with just a flopped pair of nines for almost half the remaining chips in play. This left both Walters and



## Meskwaki Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 409 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Steve Federspiel	Tiffin, IA	\$86,949
2	Joe Walters	Lees Summit, MO	\$53,751
3	Scott Vetter	Washington, IL	\$39,128
4	Tom Stambaugh	Nevis, MN	\$28,852
5	Brad Sailor	Lombard, IL	\$21,738
6	Mike Rieck	Louisiana, MO	\$16,600
7	Nghia "3 Putts" Le	Shakopee, MN	\$13,043
8	Jordan Miller	Louisville, KY	\$10,276
9	Shane Battani	Huxley, IA	\$7,509
10	Stephen Lewis	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$6,324

Scott Vetter short, and Vetter blinked first, jamming seven-six into Federspiel's ace-deuce, and Federspiel flopped aces-up to best Vetter's pair of sixes and bust Vetter in third for \$39,128. Vetter's second MSPT final table was a career-best cash, and he now boasts a cash in four consecutive MSPT Seasons.

Heads-up play didn't last long, as Walters got his last 2.2 million in at Level 30 (60,000/120,000/20,000) and Federspiel made the call.

Walters: A♦4♦

Federspiel: A♠Js

A 10♠6♠5♥5♠3♦ board left Walters in second place, good for \$53,751, and his first career MSPT cash. 🤖



Final Table





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## Event Preview

# MSPT AND THE VENETIAN PARTNER FOR TWO EVENTS THIS SUMMER OFFERING \$6 MILLION IN GUARANTEES

BY MSPT STAFF

**F**or Season 10 of the MSPT at The Venetian Las Vegas, we're offering two massive guarantees of \$3 Million each in conjunction with the DeepStack Championship Poker Series!

In 2014, the MSPT and The Venetian partnered for the first-ever MSPT Venetian \$1,100 Main Event, which drew 854 runners. The tournament has turned into an annual event that grew to 4,411 entries last year, which was the largest poker tournament ever both on the MSPT and at The Venetian.

This year, the keystone \$1,100 MSPT Venetian Main Event, which has become one of the summer's most-anticipated tournaments, will take place June 3-8 and offer four starting flights with a \$3 Million guarantee! In addition, there will be a \$1,600 buy-in, \$3 million GTD tournament June 17-21.

The entire \$1,100 and \$1,600 MSPT The Venetian Main Event will be live reported in the MSPT live blog.

The MSPT tournaments are a part of The Venetian's DeepStack Championship Poker Series, which will feature 136 events from May 13 through July 28 and offer \$24 million in guaranteed prize pools.

Regarding the history of the \$1,100 MSPT Venetian, Dale Bronk won the inaugural MSPT Venetian for \$163,870, and in 2015 Angelina Rich became the first and thus far only woman to win a MSPT main event title by topping a field of 1,964 entries, first place was \$304,386.

In 2016, the field grew to 2,887 entries to smash the advertised \$2 million GTD. Thomas Boivin defeated poker pro Mukul Pahuja in heads-up play to win that event where first place was \$403,178. In 2017's record-setting affair, which saw the guarantee upped to \$2.5 million, Nader Kakhmazov prevailed over 3,273 runners, first place was \$440,029. He'd go on to win a World Series of Poker gold bracelet two weeks later. Then in last summer's historic event, David Levine bested a 4,411-entrant field where first place was \$548,341!

For Poker Player Suite Rate information during the summer series or to find the schedule of events, check out [msptpoker.com](http://msptpoker.com). 🍀



David Levine



## Event Recap

# AARON FREI TAKES DOWN THE \$360 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT GOLDEN GATES

BY MSPT STAFF

**O**n April 3-7, 2019 at Golden Gates Poker Par-lour and Casino, 778 players took to the felt in search of the MSPT \$360 Golden Gates Regional Event championship, and when the dust settled, Longmont, Colorado poker pro Aaron Frei was able to navigate the remaining 114 player field on Day 2 to ship the title and \$36,968 after a three-way chop. (Chops are permitted at MSPT Regional Events) Frei, Naval Subbarayan (2nd - \$30,328) and Daryl Martz (3rd - \$29,098) were the trio that chopped up the lion's share of the prize pool.

Frei is no stranger to shipping events here at Golden Gates, in 2017 he shipped the \$400 Kickoff event at the Colorado Poker Championship's Winter Series for \$42,064. In 2015, he made two deep runs in the Colorado Poker Championship Main Events finishing 4th for \$19,150 in August, then followed that up with a runner-up performance in December's Main Event for \$37,278.

The rest of the all Colorado Final Table consisted of Milad Hajihabib (4th - \$15,600), Slater Dean (5th - \$11,903), Mike Hakanson (6th - \$9,103), Jeff Granowski (7th - \$7,002), Nissim Angel (8th - \$5,368), Sean Barnt (9th - \$4,201) and Michael Caruso (10th - \$3,478). Others earning a cash at the Regional Event were Richard Trenholme (13th - \$2,801), Bobby Sanoubane (16th - \$2,334), Cody Hanson (31st - \$1,027), "Money" Mike Monetti (32nd - \$1,027), Sammy Aweida (42nd - \$864), Ryan Dodson (51st - \$794), and Scotter Clark (69th - \$700). 🍵



Aaron Frei



**Golden Gates Casino**

Buy-in: \$360 ♣️ 778 Entrants



Final Table

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Aaron Frei	Longmont, CO	\$36,968*
2	Naval Subbarayan	Parker, CO	\$30,328*
3	Daryl Martz	Littleton, CO	\$29,098*
4	Milad Hajihabib	Denver, CO	\$15,600
5	Slater Dean	Littleton, CO	\$11,903
6	Mike Hakanson	Longmont, CO	\$9,103
7	Jeffrey Granowsky	Windsor, CO	\$7,002
8	Nissim Angel	Denver, CO	\$5,368
9	Sean Barnt	Westminster, CO	\$4,201
10	Michael Caruso	Arvada, CO	\$3,478

\*Denotes chop amount



# Golden Gates Casino

## BRIAN HOU WINS MSPT GOLDEN GATES!

BY MSPT STAFF

**T**iger Woods completed a comeback for the ages this day at The Masters, shipping his first Green Jacket since 2005. Brian Hou may have managed a more improbable comeback than Tiger's, as he spun up a stack of just two antes at the final table all the way to victory here at the MSPT Golden Gates Casino Main Event.

"It's kinda surreal more than anything else...a lot of things had to go right. More so than usual!" Hou, an employee of the University of Michigan said about his improbable final table run. "I had one ante in and one 5k chip left. Then I hit a bunch of really lucky rivers when I was all-in, all of them five outs or less" This included binking a three-outer four on Ben Keeline to triple up to five big blinds, then after a few shoves, doubling through Alex Winter with king-seven finding a king on the river to crack Winter's eights. From there, Hou steamrolled through the remaining field to victory.

Hou kept it lowkey when talking about what he was going to do now that he earned his first MSPT Main Event title: "I'm gonna try to go to sleep and try to catch a flight to Michigan." Hou added, "Shout out to some of the guys I play with out in Ann Arbor, a good group of guys, I hope they tuned in."

Day 2 saw 46 players return to the felt, but with only 36 slated to earn a payday, a few players had to hit the rail first, including Nader Wahdan, Wyoming pro Rich Dixon, and bubble boy Eric "Mash" Greenberg, who ran big slick into the aces of Brian Hou.

Players who managed to pick up a cash included seven-time WSOPC ring winner Vincent Moscati (11th - \$5,803), start of Day



Brian Hou

2 short stack Nissim Ancel (13th - \$4,636), Jason Vanstrom (14th - \$4,636), Umut Ozturk (16th - \$3,949), Day 1B chip leader Ramiro Perez (17th - \$3,949), Jesse Allen (18th - \$3,949), Tom Bouziden (24th - \$2,747), last week's MSPT \$360 Golden Gates Regional champ Aaron Frei (25th - \$2,507), and Nils Bardsley (33rd - \$2,404).

Keeline, the WSOP Colossus II bracelet winner, fell in third, when he raise-called off his last nineteen big blinds with ace-ten, only to fall victim to Krzysztof Stybaniewicz and his ace-queen. Keeline, who also final tabled last November's MSPT Denver Poker Open, earned his fifth MSPT Final Table and largest cash to date on tour with his \$35,368 third place finish.

Heads up play didn't last long, as on the last hand of Level 28 (40,000/80,000/10,000), Brian Hou raised to 190,000 on the button, and Krzysztof Stybaniewicz called in the big blind. Stybaniewicz checked a 5♥5♠♦ flop, and Hou bet 220,000. Stybaniewicz check-raised to 600,000, and Hou called.

The 4♣ fell on the turn, and Stybaniewicz jammed for 1.5 million. Hou double-checked his cards, then called.

Stybaniewicz: Q♦Q♣

Hou: 6♥4♥

Hou turned a full house to crack the queens of Stybaniewicz, and the K♥ river sealed Stybaniewicz's fate as the runner-up. Prior to his \$48,760 cash, Stybaniewicz had two prior cashes at MSPT Venetian Main Events. Stybaniewicz adds to his over \$1 million in live tournament earnings as reported by Hendon Mob, including a win in the 2015 WSOPC Horseshoe Hammond Main Event for \$356,043. 🏆



Final Table



### Golden Gates Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 354 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Brian Hou	Ann Arbor, MI	\$78,973
2	Krzysztof Stybaniewicz	Denver, CO	\$48,760
3	Ben Keeline	Longmont, CO	\$35,368
4	Andrew Peragallo	Highlands Ranch, CO	\$26,079
5	Maurly Solano	El Paso, TX	\$19,573
6	Alex Winter	Roseville, MN	\$15,109
7	Brian Leitch	Evergreen, CO	\$11,675
8	Karlus Dobbin	Colorado Springs, CO	\$9,271
9	Bradley Beetz	Hollister, CA	\$7,177
10	Danny Gonzales	Westminster, CO	\$5,803





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## Event Preview

# MSPT BACK TO TROPICANA EVANSVILLE WITH THE POPULAR REGIONAL SERIES MAY 22-26

BY MSPT STAFF

The MSPT introduced its new Regional Series format for the first time at Tropicana Evansville January 30 – February 3 which included a \$250 Tag Team, \$125 Seniors (50+) and a \$125 Turbo Deepstack and was capped off with the popular \$350 Regional Main Event.

The new series was such a great success that the MSPT and Tropicana Evansville are partnering to bring the it back May 22-26. \$50 & \$90 satellites that lead to the \$350 Regional Main Event will begin running April 17.

A \$250 Tag Team event will kick off the series on Wednesday, May 22 at 5pm. In January this event attracted a huge field with 79 teams and 301 total entrants. In the end it was locals Albert & Robbie Frank that earned the win, splitting the \$8,428 first place prize.

On Thursday, May 23 we will host a \$125 Seniors (50+) Championship starting at 10am which brought 210 runners to the felt last time. Carl Masters, Albert Frank, John Gastineau and Mike Wilson worked a 4-way ICM deal to wrap up the event, with Masters of Clarksville, TN taking the largest share. First place was scheduled to pay \$5,460.

The \$125 Turbo Deepstack will go off at 10am on Friday, May 24. David Wasson of Union City, IN, took down the inaugural event by outlasting a field of 115 entrants. Wasson pocketed \$3,450 for the win.

As for the \$350 Regional Event, it marks the 31st in tour history and fifth held at Tropicana. There will be three starting flights beginning with Day 1A at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 23. Day 1B will take place at the same time on Friday, May 24. Then, on Saturday, May 25, Day 1C will kick off at 2:30 p.m. The surviving players from each flight will then return at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 26 to play down to a winner. It was Caro-



Carolyn Adams

lyn Adams of Oak Grove, KY who won the last \$350 Regional Main Event at Tropicana Evansville by defeating a 587-entrant field to take home \$35,663. For Adams this was her first ever MSPT cash and her largest career score.

The Regional Events were introduced in January 2015 to offer recreational players an affordable opportunity to play our lauded “Chainsaw Approved” structure.

The MSPT first visited Tropicana Evansville for a Regional Event back in 2016 when Adam Thomas topped a field of 416 entries to win \$30,674. In Season 8, Jason Gwinn walked away with a \$35,443 first-place prize after coming out on top of a 511-entry field. Last year, Craig Smith prevailed over a 658-entry field where first place was scheduled to pay \$39,048!

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

For more information, visit [tropevansville.com](http://tropevansville.com). To view the complete MSPT Regional schedule and lodging options go to [msptpoker.com](http://msptpoker.com).



## Event Recap

# DAN BEKAVAC EARNS SECOND MSPT TITLE AT POTAWATOMI CASINO, \$126,998

BY MSPT STAFF

The Season 10 Milwaukee Poker Open at Potawatomi Hotel and Casino saw 625 players take to the felt in search of an MSPT Main Event victory. Dan Bekavac, a Wholesale Distributor for Amazon from Chicago, Illinois, who in Season 4 shipped a MSPT title in Wisconsin, bested the field and shipped the \$126,998 top prize for his second MSPT Main Event title.

"I feel good, finally got it off my back. It's been six years, finally got another title!" Bekavac said after the victory, flanked by the boisterous rail that rallied him through the final table. Bekavac notched six of the nine knockouts at the final table, and when asked how he approached the final table, he said he wanted to "...play aggressive, put the pressure on, and just make 'em fold."

One member of the epic rail was his wife, Bridget, and they have a huge family; "We got eleven kids, all under the age of thirteen, all living in one house, a big house." Bekavac has some pretty exciting plans for his rail concerning his winnings; "I told them if we win we're goin' to Fiji, so I gotta pay for a round trip for four to Fiji!"

Fans in the Twitch chat noted that Bekavac was wearing a Milwaukee Brewers sweater along with a Chicago Cubs t-shirt that he switched between on breaks. He explained that the sweater was a good luck charm; "So I went to the Brewers game on Monday, and any time we go to a new park I bet on the home team and I buy a sweater, and I had the rungood juice, the Brewers won on Friday. So I figured I'd just carry it through, and it worked. A little too hot, so I had to keep switching it up, that's why I had the Cubbies underneath, representing. Cubbie blue, true and true!"

Day 2 saw 78 players return to the Woodland Dreams ballroom at Potawatomi Hotel and Casino in search of a cash, but fifteen players would go home empty-handed, including Matt Sundburg, David "The Maven" Gutfreund, Season 10 MSPT champ Steve Federspiel, three-time MSPT champ Matt Kirby, and two-time MSPT champ Jeremy Dresch. Vlad Tkachuk was the unfortunate bubble boy, getting his queens cracked by the eight-seven of Joe Messineo.



The "2-TIMES!" Crew

Notables that managed to find a cash include final table bubble boy Paul "Big Daddy" Elfelt (11th - \$9,071), former MSPT champ Joe Matheson (16th - \$6,048), Bryan Skreens (20th - \$5,322), former MSPT champ Ben Wiora (25th - \$3,749), WSOPC ring winner Michael Wolff (26th - \$3,749), Michael Kamenjarin (29th - \$2,903), Alex Winter (31 - \$2,903), Season 7 MSPT champ Keith Heine (32nd - \$2,903), Jordan Miller (34th - \$2,903), Bryan Andrews (39th - \$2,600), Season 10 MSPT champ Mike Shin (46th - \$2,419), Season 9 MSPT POY Aaron Johnson (57th - \$2,298) and Season 8 MSPT Potawatomi Regional champ Craig Trost (63rd - \$2,298)

### Final Table Action

The final table started with three short stacks; Robert Dunn, Steve Lauson, and Day 1B chip leader Bradley Jansen, and the trio found themselves as the first three out at the final table.

Dunn started the final table as the short stack, and he was the first to fall when his king-queen couldn't overcome the pocket nines of Bryan Wilson. Dunn, a native of Cedar Springs, Michigan, notched his first career MSPT cash with his \$9,074 score.

Lauson had made two MSPT Final Tables prior to today's,



# Potawatomi Casino

and finished tenth in both. He improved on that by one position with his ninth place finish when his ace-king was out-flopped by Wilson's ace-queen. The \$11,490 he took home was a career best result for Lauson on the MSPT.

The last of the short stacks to fall was Jansen, maneuvering his way into eighth-place before succumbing to Dan Bekavac's queen-jack when Bekavac paired his jack and Jansen's ace-three never improved. Jansen, who took home \$14,515, now boasts two MSPT Potawatomi Final Tables to his name, the other coming in Season 8 where he finished seventh.

Steve Anderson ran into the Bekavac heater next, and Bekavac notched his second straight bustout. Anderson's fours were outflopped by Bekavac's ace-king, and Anderson fell in seventh for \$18,747. Anderson now sports ten MSPT Main Event cashes and half of them have resulted in a final table appearance, and with this cash, he crosses the \$100,000 mark in lifetime MSPT Career Tournament earnings.

Bekavac wasn't done busting players yet, as he won another flip when his pocket fives emerged victorious against the suited queen-jack of Jeremy Brown. Brown, who already notched one final table on tour this year when he finished fourth, took home \$24,190 for his sixth-place finish and leapt to second in the MSPT Hayvin Poker POY race with 2,100 points just a quarter of the way through the year.

Day 1A chip leader Ed Rohloff met his end in two hands against Bekavac. Bekavac got his last seventeen blinds in with ace-deuce of hearts, and Rohloff had him at risk with a pair of nines. An ace on the river crippled Rohloff down to a few big blinds, which Bekavac took a few hands later. Rohloff settled for fifth place and \$32,052. Rohloff is no stranger to MSPT Potawatomi final tables, as last November he finished fourth in the Season 9 MSPT Wisconsin State Poker Championship.

Next to go was MSPT Poker Bowl III champ Wilson, who lost a huge pot when his queens ran into the set of Ken Daciolas, then got his last few blinds in with ace-six against the queen-six of Bekavac. Bekavac binked a queen on the flop and never looked back, leaving Wilson with fourth place and \$42,333. Wilson's performance in his two MSPT Main Events so far this year has notched him 3,200 points in the MSPT Hayvin Poker POY Race, an 1,100 point lead over Brown. Wilson said he would be at MSPT Firekeepers in May in hopes of adding to his points lead.

Daciolas, the overall Day 2 chip leader, couldn't keep the good times rolling, however, and suffered a bad beat at the hands of Spencer Alexander. Daciolas got his last fifteen big blinds



## Potawatomi Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 625 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Daniel Bekavac	Chicago, IL	\$126,998
2	Spencer Alexander	Dyer, IN	\$78,013
3	Ken Daciolas	Chicago, IL	\$56,847
4	Brian Wilson	SS Marie, Ontario	\$42,333
5	Edward Rohloff	Weyauwega, WI	\$32,052
6	Jeremy Brown	Bloomington, IN	\$24,190
7	Steve Anderson	Clarklake, MI	\$18,747
8	Bradley Jansen	West Bend, WI	\$14,514
9	Steve Lauson	Manitowoc, WI	\$11,490
10	Robert Dunn	Cedar Springs, MI	\$9,071

in with kings against the suited nine-eight of Alexander, but Alexander managed to flop nines and eights and Daciolas succumbed in third place, taking home \$56,847. Daciolas earned his second MSPT cash, and the largest of his career, besting the \$21,750 for finishing 643rd in the 2018 WSOP Main Event.

Alexander started heads-up play with a 2:1 chip lead, but Alexander was caught making a huge bluff by Bekavac, swapping the stacks of the duo. Bekavac ground Alexander down to 2.5 million at Level 30 (60,000/120,000/20,000), and the final hand of the tournament saw Bekavac raise to 400,000 on the button, then call the three-bet shove of Alexander.

Bekavac: A♠10♠

Alexander: Q♦J♦

Bekavac flopped trips on the 10♥10♠6♦ flop, leaving Alexander looking for runner-runner to survive. He leapt up in celebration after the 5♣ turn left Alexander dead to the Q♠ river. This was Alexander's first career MSPT cash. 🏆



Final Table



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# THE PROS AND CONS OF SLOW PLAYING ACES

BY MSPT STAFF

**On** Day 1b of the MSPT Meskwaki Main Event, it was Level 4 (150/300/300)—20,000 effective stacks—when MSPT Season 10 Majestic Star runner-up Mo Nuwwarah raised to 700 UTG and Chad Holloway called from middle position. Dave Grandin then three-bet to 2,500 from the button before the player in the big blind cold called.

Nuwwarah and Holloway both called and it was four-way action to the 8♠6♥8♦ flop. All players checked and the dealer burned and turned the J♦. The player in the big blind checked and Nuwwarah moved all in for 9,400. Both Holloway and Grandin got out of the way and the big blind snap called.

Nuwwarah: J♣10♣

Big Blind: A♣A♠

Nuwwarah was in trouble but got lucky to hit a two outer when the J♥ spiked on the river. With that, Nuwwarah chipped up to 28,800.

There are many pros and cons to slow playing aces, a topic we discuss with Jonathan Little of PokerCoaching.com.

**MSPT: If you're in the big blind with aces in this spot do you ever slow play?**

**Little:** Slow playing aces is always a viable consideration, mainly because it usually stays the best hand after the flop. That said, when there are two players yet to act who will be getting excellent pot odds, it is usually best to four-bet.

**How about the aces checking both the flop or turn? Good ideas?**

**Little:** As played preflop, aces should certainly check the flop to induce the preflop raiser to bet. Betting the turn is likely ideal to get money in the pot, but checking is also fine to induce a worse made hand or bluff to bet.

**How do you feel about Nuwwarah's turn jam? Is this the right move in your opinion?**

**Little:** I do not like it. When you jam with top pair with a weak kicker, for the most part, only hands that are better will call while worse hands will fold, resulting in the opponents playing perfectly. You make money when your opponents



**Mo Nuwwarah**

make mistakes, not when they play perfectly. A smaller bet or a check would have been ideal.

**If any recreational players are out there and look down at aces in a hand like this, what advice do you have for them?**

**Little:** Figure out what you are trying to accomplish. Many players erroneously re-raise to try to get heads-up because they fear being outdrawn. While slow playing will result in you being outdrawn from time to time, it is often worth it, especially if your opponents will stack off with top pair with a weak kicker.

*PokerCoaching.com is an interactive poker learning experience from two-time WPT Champion Jonathan Little. Try it for free at [PokerCoaching.com/mspt](http://PokerCoaching.com/mspt).*



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**MSPT**  
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

## MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of April 27, 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	\$481,541
6	Thomas Boivin	\$450,355
7	Felipe Davila	\$408,589
8	Kou Vang	\$400,111
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	\$345,171
15	Peixin Liu	\$318,857
16	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
17	Mukul Pahuja	\$304,491
18	Rob WazWaz	\$300,032
19	Jason Zarlenga	\$298,379
20	James Romero	\$294,445
21	Mike Shanahan	\$278,607
22	Matt Kirby	\$275,838
23	Jeremy Dresch	\$272,741
24	Chris Meyers	\$272,282
25	Lou Garza	\$269,639
26	Aaron Johnson	\$263,119
27	Alex Foxen	\$239,000
28	Osama Aweida	\$238,240
29	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
30	Greg Himmelbrand	\$231,690
31	Keith Heine	\$231,490
32	Maury Solano	\$228,817
33	Richard Bai	\$226,044
34	Mark Brazis	\$221,323
35	Joni Jouhkimainen	\$221,304
36	Travis Lauson	\$220,117
37	Matthew Stammen	\$218,565
38	Adam Friedman	\$216,732
39	Glen Nguyen	\$215,430
40	Daniel Bekavac	\$211,429
41	John Hayes	\$209,395
42	Keven Stammen	\$207,400
43	Hao "John" Sun	\$205,641
44	Kristen Bicknell	\$203,729
45	Brett Blackwood	\$199,508
46	Thupten Thondup	\$198,015
47	Scott Massimiano	\$197,833
48	Mark Sandness	\$195,254
49	David Gonia	\$194,803
50	Jonathan Kim (MN)	\$193,976



**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 April 27

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Brian Wilson	3,200
2	Jeremy Brown	2,100
3	Mike Shin	1,975
4	Sean Munjal	1,800
5	Daniel Bekavac	1,700
	Pedro Mendes	1,700
7	Brian Hou	1,650
8	Matt Kirby	1,600
	Anthony Carbone	1,600
	Eli Ross	1,600
11	Tom Stambaugh	1,500
	Steve Federspiel	1,500
	Adam Friedman	1,500
	Eddy Sabat	1,500
	Spencer Alexander	1,500
16	Alex Winter	1,450
17	Ken Daciolas	1,400
	Andy Redleaf	1,400
	Shannon Shorr	1,400
	Joel Brink	1,400
21	Adam Tolander	1,375
22	Sherry Hammers	1,300
	Dylan Thomassie	1,300
	Bradley Jansen	1,300
	Tyler Kolness	1,300
	Igor Ioffe	1,300
	Joe Walters	1,300



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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## Player Spotlight

## SPOTLIGHT ON...MIKEY MECUM

BY BRANDON TEMPLE

**F**inding a bag on tour with the MSPT is no small feat: only a small percentage of players are able to navigate the fields and secure a Day 2 bag. Mikey Mecum, a twenty-five year old part-time poker player and home game dealer from Madison, Wisconsin, was able to find the first bag of his MSPT career in just his second MSPT Main Event during Day 1B of the MSPT Milwaukee Poker Open, managing to put 80,000 chips in the bag for the final day. We caught up with “Meecs” as he’s known in the Madison Poker Community to see what it felt like to print his Day 2 ticket.

**MSPT:** How did you get your start playing poker?

**Mecum:** I’ve been playing poker since I was about eleven years old. I had family that played the game and I fell in love with it, and when I turned 21 and got to play more, that’s when the passion for me really set in.

**How did your Day 1 flight go? Any pivotal hands or moments that helped you get through the day?**

**Mecum:** It went good! I missed a couple big pots I probably should have been in and didn’t get as much value as I should have in some others, but that’s hindsight and I’ve been trying to not let that affect my game. So overall I’m happy with how I played. I did lose about 45k in the last hour with pocket jacks, had to lay down my overpair to a smaller set. Was just glad my read was right and was still surviving.

**How did it feel when you knew you had made it through to Day 2?**

**Mecum:** I was relieved. They announced three hands left and that last hand was right before the big blind got to me. I was happy to get my first bag, and get that monkey off my back.

**You’re a member of the Madison Poker Community, a Facebook group with over 1,600 members in the Madison area that discuss and play poker together. How has being a part of that community affected your game?**

**Mecum:** It’s honestly been huge. The MPC is such a great group of well rounded players, and I think Madison has some really good players. I also deal home games in Madison, and it’s helped improve my game by just watching, learning, and picking up on things that can help me become a better player. It’s also a very friendly group; I’ve asked some people for advice and just being able to go over hands with someone has helped me a lot. I’m just striving to always better my game.



Mikey Mecum

**You’re coming back with twenty big blinds for Day 2, what’s your gameplan?**

**Mecum:** Just stick to my game. I was grinding around 30-35 big blinds for awhile. I’m probably going need to make a couple moves before I can get into the money, so just stay patient and pick my spots as best I can. 🍀



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