



MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

**NATION'S #1
POKER TOUR**

AUGUST 2016

PLUS:

**POTAWATOMI SETS
REGIONAL RECORD**

**INDUSTRY INSIDER:
VENETIAN'S TOMMY LAROSA**

**GET TO KNOW
MSPT PRO BLAKE BOHN**

**INDIANA STATE
POKER CHAMPIONSHIP
PREVIEW**

WINNERS IN THE MUCK



Vinh Tran

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UPCOMING EVENTS



\$350 Regional Event

**Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Onamia, MN
August 6-14, 2016**

**\$50,000
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Indiana State Championship

**Tropicana Evansville
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August 13-21, 2016**

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September 3-11, 2016**

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Letter from the Editor

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THE MSPT REGIONALS?

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

The Mid-States Poker Tour is known for our \$1,100 buy-in Main Events across the country, but did you know the MSPT also offers \$350 buy-in Regional Events? We started them in January 2015 with the MSPT Regional bestbet Jacksonville, which attracted 456 entrants.

Since then, there have been 11 Regionals in venues such as Golden Gates Casino in Black Hawk; Grand Casino Mille Lacs in Onamia, Minnesota; Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, Minnesota; Tropicana Evansville in Evansville, Indiana; and Potawatomi Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

As you can see on the cover of this issue, the most recent Regional was held at Potawatomi and attracted a Regional record of 1,169 entries (287 on Day 1a, 389 on 1b, and 493 on 1c). That made the event the largest poker tournament in Wisconsin history!

So what's to account for the success of the Regional Events? In our opinion, one reason is the \$350 price point, which seems to resonate with players. After all, where else can you go, put down a few Benjamin's, and compete for either a \$50,000 or \$100,000 guaranteed prize pool? For Potawatomi, it ended up being a \$350,700 total prize pool and a \$61,900 first-place prize. Not a bad value.

In addition, we aim to make it worthwhile for players. That's why our Regionals feature the same starting stack and structure as our Main Events, though with reduced blind levels of 30 minutes instead of 40.

"Suited for Players" is an MSPT motto, and we've done our best to make our Regionals just that. If you get the opportunity, we hope you'll check out a MSPT Regional, like the upcoming stop at Grand Casino Mille Lacs previewed later in this issue.

Bryan Mileski
MSPT Founder

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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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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Standings as of July 23, 2016



Thupten Thondup - Santa Fe, NM

♣All players who cash in an MSPT event are ranked for Player of the Year points. At the end of the calendar year, the top-ranked player will receive POY recognition, \$250 toward a satellite or Main Event at every Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) event the following season (max \$5,000), as well as a \$1,100 Main Event seat with \$400 travel to Venetian Mid-Season Championship

♣MSPT Player of the Year points are awarded based on the total prizepool of the tournament.

♣For more POY information, including how points are awarded, and to follow the race in 2016, visit www.msptpoker.com/pages/poy

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Thupten Thondup	2,400
2	Travis Lauson	2,117
3	Thomas Boivin	2,000
4	Richard Bai	1,900
5	Aaron Massey	1,800
	Mukul Pahuja	1,800
7	Rodger Johnson	1,750
8	Hao Sun	1,700
	Ryan Phan	1,700
10	Matt Alexander	1,667
11	Mark Sandness	1,600
	Keith Heine	1,600
	Ron Kruk	1,600
	Michael Rudolph	1,600
15	Blake Whittington	1,567
16	Jason Smith	1,550
17	TJ Ryan	1,500
	Richard Alsup	1,500
	Andrew Rubinberg	1,500
	Rory Lucero	1,500
	Arthur Andrade	1,500
	Josh Crain	1,500
	Taylor Wilson	1,500
24	Abraham Montenegro	1,450
25	Kou Vang	1,400
	Aalok Arora	1,400
	Shawn Roberts	1,400
	Carl Carodenuto	1,400
	Brandon Byrne	1,400
	Jim Casement	1,400
31	Scott Johnson	1,367
32	Jason Vanstrom	1,350
33	Chris Blik	1,300
	David Mitchell	1,300
	Will Mietz	1,300
36	Byron Ziebell	1,250
37	Dan Hendrickson	1,200
	Muneer Ahmed	1,200
	Gennady Shimelfarb	1,200
	Jeff Fielder	1,200
	Kenneth Kemple	1,200
	Jason Crews	1,200
	Benjamin Reinhart	1,200
	Nathan Hoh	1,200
	Jake Nguyen	1,200
	James Akenhead	1,200
47	Josh Reichard	1,150
48	Christopher Brauch	1,133

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

Check out complete MSPT stats page at msptpoker.com

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Regional Recap

VINH TRAN WINS MSPT POTO REGIONAL, THE LARGEST TOURNAMENT IN WI HISTORY

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

From July 14-17, the Mid-States Poker Tour was at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino for a \$350 buy-in, \$100,000 guaranteed Regional Event. In January of this year, the same stop set a record for largest MSPT Regional with 904 entrants, but that was blown out of the water as 1,169 runners (287 on Day 1a, 389 on 1b, and 493 on 1c) took to the felt, making it the largest poker tournament in Wisconsin history!

In the end, 34-year-old recreational player Vinh Tran of Aurora, Illinois walked away with the title and \$49,944 in prize money.

"It feels pretty good," said Tran, who runs a nail salon business with his family. "It wasn't easy. I had to get lucky a couple times heads up. Going all in when I was an underdog two times, I got lucky to stay alive."

The \$350,700 total prize pool, which more than tripled the guarantee, was distributed to the top 117 finishers. Among those to earn a payday were Johnny Brzozowski (112th - \$644), Dewey Weum (106th—\$678), Bruce Swart (92nd—\$746), Tom Anderson (81st—\$848), former MSPT Potawatomi champ Dan Goepel (44th—\$1,119), Abraham Montenegro (24th—\$2,306), and Sean Moore (11th—\$4,749).

The final table was filled primarily with MSPT first-timers, at least those notching their first cashes. In fact, eight out of the ten finalist had never cashed a MSPT before. The two that had were two-time MSPT Potawatomi Main Event finalist John Sun and Tran, who had two smaller cashes. Sun, who finished fifth in Season 5 for \$26,808 and third earlier this season for \$50,017, ultimately bowed in seventh place while Tran made it to heads-up play at a chip disadvantage against Ryan Gatrel.

That changed when the latter got his stack all in preflop holding the J♦10♦ against the A♥5♥ of his opponent. A jack on the flop gave Tran the double, and with the stacks even, the final two players agreed on a chop that saw each secure \$49,944 in prize money. They then decided to play one hand blind for the trophy.

In it, Tran was dealt the lowly 7♦2♦ against the Q♦4♦ of Gatrel. The worst hand in poker soon turned into the nuts when the flop came down 7♣2♥7♥ to give Tran a full house. The 5♥ and 2♠ completed the board on the turn and river respectively, and Tran was declared the winner. 🏆



Vinh Tran



Potawatomi Casino
Buy-in: \$350 ♣ 1,169 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Vinh Tran	North Aurora, IL	\$49,944*
2	Ryan Gatrel	Delavan, WI	\$49,944*
3	Jared Schmitz	Cincinnati, OH	\$28,186
4	Evan Bisbee	Sussex, WI	\$21,402
5	Amado Rodriguez	Appleton, WI	\$15,941
6	Kevin Maahs	Chicago, IL	\$12,221
7	Hao Sun	Milwaukee, WI	\$9,497
8	Peng Moua	Milwaukee, WI	\$7,462
9	Christopher Formisano	Sun Prairie, WI	\$6,105
10	John McGuinness	Watertown, WI	\$4,749

*chops allowed in Regional & Preliminary Events

Mid-States Poker Tour

SIX FIGURE SCORES, DAILY FANTASY SPORTS & MORE WITH MSPT PRO BLAKE BOHN

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

One of the superstars to come out of the Mid-States Poker Tour is Blake Bohn of Eden Prairie, who currently sits second on Minnesota's all-time money list with nearly \$2.4 million in tournament earnings.

In May 2013, Bohn became the first member of the MSPT Pro team, which came shortly after he topped a field of 392 players to win the Chicago Poker Classic for a career-high \$288,171. That summer, Bohn finished runner-up to Jonathan Taylor in the World Series of Poker Event #14: \$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em for \$281,049.

Other poker highlights for Bohn include 23rd in the 2015 WSOP Main Event for \$262,574, finishing seventh in the 2014 Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open Main Event for \$249,438, third in the 2014 World Poker Tour Borgata Open for \$213,999, and 15th in the 2013 WSOP \$111,111 One Drop High Roller for \$208,968.

In regards to the MSPT, Bohn has cashed 11 events, made six final tables, and is one of seven players to win two tour titles—he won the Season 5 Grand Falls Casino for \$54,607 and Season 6 Meskwaki Casino for \$101,229. He currently sits fourth on the MSPT All-Time Money list with \$275,277.

Last December, Bohn was selected, alongside "Minneapolis" Jim Meehan, for induction into the Minnesota Poker Hall of Fame.

"Since 2010, Blake's name has been commonplace in the Minnesota poker scene. There is no denying the poker skill he has, and his results prove it," Tristan Wilberg, Casino Shift Manager/Casino Marketing Advisor for Running Aces Casino said at the time.

Bohn, 44, grew up competing against family playing both sports and cards; in fact, last fall he and his father, Marc, won the tag team event at the Canterbury Park Fall Poker Classic. He grew up in Savage, Minnesota and graduated from St. Olaf College with a double major in Economics and Asian Studies. He was also an all conference baseball pitcher there.

Bohn, who is engaged to fiancé, Lisa, and has a 17-year-old son, Peyton, was kind enough to sit down for a Q&A.

MSPT: *What did you do before you found poker?*

Bohn: I worked in the finance industry, which included owning a few small companies. Eventually I left the field of finance for the felt, which was about 10 years ago now.

How did you learn poker?

Bohn: I've always played cards as a child with my whole family and at all family gatherings. We are not talking "Go Fish," we are talking higher level thinking games. We played a little poker but not much. The first time I ever played poker was with my grandmother, who recently passed away. I don't think I won many pennies in those games. I learned how to play a lot better as an adult by just playing at a local card room playing limit hold'em including \$15-\$30, \$30-\$60, and \$40-\$80.

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

Bohn: You will rarely find me playing a cash game, unless it's more for fun with friends. I play tournaments all over the country raging from \$1,000 to \$111,111. I enjoy playing in Vegas, LA, Florida and Atlantic City, basically because that's where you can find the bigger events. Unless you have done it, it's tough to describe the feeling of being really deep in a big event playing for huge money.

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

Bohn: I've never been tempted to leave. I really enjoy Minnesota and the family and friends I have there. I feel I can have more balance, because now when I'm home in Minnesota I don't play much at all. When I travel I work.

How would you describe the poker community in Minnesota?

Bohn: Honestly, overrated. I am sure that will upset a lot of people, but it's the truth. The community of tournament players has gotten a lot better, mostly thanks to the MSPT. But I don't think we have many world-class players. We, as Minnesotans, love our state and love our own people and players, but I play world wide and I don't know of many that could make it consistently on a national tour.

Get to Know 'em



Who are your closest friends in poker?

Bohn: Fellow MSPT Pro and commentator Matt Alexander, MSPT Running Aces champ Aalok "Luke" Arora, and Quan Le.

What's your proudest poker accomplishment and why?

Bohn: Notching six scores over \$200,000 including 23rd in the 2015 WSOP Main Event. Also, winning the partner event with my father, being a pro for the MSPT, and being inducted into the Minnesota Poker Hall of Fame.

How did you come to be a MSPT Pro?

Bohn: I had some discussions with Bryan Mileski and felt we could have a business plan that could benefit us both. I traveled a lot and could bring some awareness to his tour nationally and in turn I get to align myself with a solid professional poker tour that was thriving.

What's the craziest thing you've ever seen happen at the poker table?

Bohn: Are you kidding? This could be its own article. I have seen a person play without his shirt. I have seen a dealer throw a chip tray at a player. I was once involved in a pre-planned slowroll that will never be forgotten.

If you weren't doing poker, what do you think you'd be doing?

Bohn: Something where I could use my competitive nature and the ability to process information quickly.

You've also ventured into the world of DFS. How did that come about?

Bohn: I'm always looking for opportunities to invest and make money. The DFS last fall/winter was the most fun I had sweating sports in my life. I had some major scores and it was so fun most nights watching the NBA. In fact, with four minutes left in the live final, I was leading for the \$1 million first-place prize. I ended up fourth for \$180,000.

You can follow Bohn on Twitter @bkbohn. 🐦

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Event Preview

MSPT RETURNS TO GRAND FALLS CASINO NEAR SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA AUGUST 20-28

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

For the first time in Season 7, the Mid-States Poker Tour will visit Grand Falls Casino near the Sioux Falls, South Dakota market. Grand Falls will play host to an \$1,100 buy-in, \$150,000 guaranteed Main Event.

The stop, which requires players be 21 or older to play, will feature numerous \$65 Super Satellites and \$220+\$30+\$10 Satellites, as well as two bonus events. The first is a \$40 Omaha Hi/Lo Spread Limit tournament at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 22, and the other is a \$40 no-limit hold'em Grand Falls weekly at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23.

Then, on Friday, August 26 at 4:00 p.m., Day 1a of the Main Event will get underway. Day 1b will take place at the same time on Saturday, August 27, and then the surviving players from both flights will return on Sunday, August 28 at 11:00 a.m. to battle down to a winner. For those who fail to make it through or fall early, Grand Falls Casino will host a \$100 no-limit hold'em tournament at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The stop marks the fifth time the MSPT has visited the property. The first took place back in 2012 when Dan Sun topped a field of 215 entrants to win \$60,486 and become the MSPT's first back-to-back champion. Other winners of the MSPT Grand Falls Casino include Josh Smith, who topped a field of 218 to win \$59,221 in August 2013; MSPT Pro Blake Bohn, who outlasted 200 other entrants to win in August 2014 for \$54,607; and defending champ Alan Curl, who topped a field of 238 entrants to win it last year for \$64,655.

"The annual stop at Grand Falls Casino is one that I always look forward to," said MSPT owner and operator Bryan Mileski. "Not only does it take place in a scenic area, the gaming action is top notch. Of course there is the poker, but in addition to that there are a beautiful, brand new, on-site golf course, more than 900 slot machines, 16 blackjack tables, and plenty of entertainment to be had. There's really something for everyone."

Saturday, Aug 6	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 min	12:00 PM
Saturday, Aug 13	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 min	12:00 PM
Saturday, Aug 20	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Poker Room	30 min	12:00 PM
Sunday, Aug 21	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Poker Room	30 min	1:00 PM
Monday, Aug 22	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$40 Omaha Hi/Lo Spread Limit - Grand Falls Casino Weekly	Poker Room		6:00 PM
Tuesday, Aug 23	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$40 NLHE - Grand Falls Casino Weekly	Poker Room		1:00 PM
Wednesday, Aug 24	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 min	6:30 PM
	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
Thursday, Aug 25	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 min	12:00 PM
	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Poker Room	30 min	6:30 PM
	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
Friday, Aug 26	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Poker Room	30 min	12:00 PM
	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Poker Room	30 min	6:30 PM
	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
	\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$150,000 GTD Main Event	Event Center	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
Saturday, Aug 27	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	10:30 AM
	\$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1A (\$150,000 Guaranteed)*	Event Center	40 Minute	4:00 PM
	Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"			
	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	8:00am - 10:00am
Sunday, Aug 28	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Event Center	Seat by List	8:00am - 10:00am
	\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$150,000 GTD Main Event	Event Center	Seat by List	8:00am - 3:00pm
	\$220+\$30+\$10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$150,000 GTD	Event Center	30 Minute	10:30 AM
	\$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1B (\$150,000 Guaranteed)*	Event Center	40 Minute	4:00 PM
Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"				
Sunday, Aug 28	MSPT Main Event - Day 2*	Event Center	40 Minute	11:00 AM
	\$100 NLHE - Grand Falls Casino Weekly	Poker Room		1:00PM
*Main Event Includes MSPT Live Reporting				

Industry Insiders

VENETIAN TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR TOMMY LAROSA GOES FROM BASEBALL TO THE BIG LEAGUES OF POKER

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

For the third year running, the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) visited The Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas over the summer, this time for a \$2 million guarantee Main Event. The event was a massive success due in no small part to Tommy LaRosa, who has served as The Venetian Poker Room Tournament Director since March 2012.

Three years ago, LaRosa and MSPT owner Bryan Mileski spoke about a possible partnership, one that led to a test run in 2014. That is when Chicago's Drake Bronk topped a field of 854 entries to capture a \$163,870 first-place prize. It was good enough to earn the MSPT a return visit, and one year later attendance more than doubled as 1,964 entrants took to the felt to crush the \$1 million guarantee by creating a \$1,964,000 prize pool. That title and a \$215,815 first-place prize went to 25-year-old Angelina Rich, who became the first woman in history to win a MSPT title.

"I could see from social media the excitement that the MSPT was creating in its events, and that this partnership was going to grow into something special," says LaRosa. "Every time I look on social media these days, it's about another record attendance MSPT seems to be setting at venues."

So who is the man who took a chance and brought the MSPT to Sin City? You might be surprised to learn that he has a connection to the MSPT's birthplace—Minnesota. That's because LaRosa, a talented baseball player, played in the Minnesota Twins farm system from 1996-1999.

"On June 28, 1999, I knew my dream of becoming a Big Leaguer was coming to an end and I needed to start the next phase of my life," says LaRosa. "I called up a friend who had just started at The Venetian Hotel, and asked about employment opportunities. On July 2, 1999, I started my career here at The Venetian and have never looked back."

LaRosa began his gaming career working in Guest Services, but eventually transferred to the poker room when it opened in 2006. His poker experience up to that point was simply playing the game as a hobby, but he trained for several weeks leading up to the grand opening. He's never stopped learning.

"Although I am the Tournament Director, many of my duties



Tommy LaRosa

Industry Insiders

involve running the day-to-day operations, in addition to creating, marketing, and setting up DeepStack Extravaganza events throughout the year," Larosa explains. "I have a great management team alongside of me however, which makes what I do a lot easier."

That team was responsible for introducing the poker world to the wildly popular Deep Stack Extravaganza, of which there are now five major events a year. With a generous starting stack, kind structure, and affordable buy-ins, the Deep Stack events have been replicated across the world; in fact, it was the inspiration for the MSPT's first structure back in 2010.

"I have a huge sense of pride knowing that The Venetian Poker Room and our team of employees from 2006 to present, have left our little mark in the poker world," Larosa says of their DeepStack legacy. "We continue to try to find ways to be a leader in the industry, but without a doubt, the DeepStack Extravaganza has reshaped how tournaments are played throughout the world."

Not only did The Venetian set the bar for tournament structures, their room set the standard for comfort and luxury in Las Vegas. From the space in between tables, to tableside service from the Grand Lux Café, to the massage team from the Canyon Ranch SpaClub, The Venetian Poker Room has amenities that keep players coming back.

"It is no secret that we have the most amazing restaurants here on property," says LaRosa. "From Emeril Lagasse to Wolfgang Puck, you can find something that suits your tastes

while you play in the most luxurious poker room on the Las Vegas Strip."

He continues: "In the past, we have offered \$2 and \$3 max rake as well as free rake altogether during certain time periods. We have also set up a buffet for our players as a year-end thank you. Currently the management team is looking at future promotions to see what we can do for our players who support us all year long."

Speaking of players who support the room, and specifically the DeepStack Extravaganza, the Venetian Poker Room has enlisted the services of Annette Obrestad and Erica Lindgren to serve as ambassadors.

"We wanted to bring on poker players who supported the DeepStack Extravaganza, who could also be a direct liaison between the players and the management team," LaRosa says of the move. "It's important that we understand the pulse of our players and what drives them to play our events. Obviously, players who had a big reach through social media was a concern and driving force."

As a final question to LaRosa, we wanted to know the wildest thing he's ever seen go down in a poker room.

"Living in Las Vegas since 1985, I have seen many things that most people would consider pretty fun and crazy," LaRosa laughs. "They happen so often, it's almost a part of everyday life. Some things you just have to come to Las Vegas and experience for yourself."

You can follow LaRosa on Twitter @VenetianTD. 🐦





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Event Preview

MSPT RETURNS TO TROPICANA EVANSVILLE AUGUST 13-21 FOR INDIANA STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

From August 13-21, the Mid-States Poker Tour heads to Tropicana Evansville for the Indiana State Poker Championship, a \$1,100 buy-in, \$250,000 guaranteed Main Event. The stop will feature a series of qualifiers all feeding into the Main Event, which will take place Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21.

The Main Event will be held over three days beginning with Day 1A on Friday at 4 p.m. Day 1A will play 14 levels, and Saturday's Day 1B, which will kick off at the same time, will play the same amount of levels. Players who advance from any Main Event flight will return for Day 2 at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday and play until a champion is crowned.

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

"This marks the third time the MSPT is visiting Tropicana Evansville for a Main Event, and we expect this to be the

biggest and best yet," said MSPT owner and operator Bryan Mileski. "Thus far Season 7 has been setting records, and there's a good chance we set another in our first visit of the year to Indiana."

The first time the MSPT visited the venue for a Main Event was back in August 2014 when Charlie Dawson topped a field of 225 entrants to take home a \$60,527 first-place prize. Then, in last year's inaugural Indiana State Poker Championship, Michael O'Neill outlasted 250 other entrants to win for \$67,746. Amazingly, Illinois' Alexander Yen finished runner-up in both those events!

Located near Indiana's border with Illinois and Kentucky, the Tropicana Evansville Casino is accessible to four major poker bases—St. Louis, Indianapolis, Louisville, and Nashville—all of which are within a three-hour drive of the property. The casino is located on an 841,848 square foot area at Riverfront Park on the Ohio River in downtown Evansville. The \$110 million entertainment facility includes a 250-room hotel and a 96-room boutique hotel, an executive conference center, retail shops, restaurants and lounge area.

Saturday, Aug 13	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	Poker Room	30 min	2:00 PM
Sunday, Aug 14	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	Poker Room	30 min	2:00 PM
Tuesday, Aug 16	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 min	6:30 PM
Wednesday, Aug 17	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	20 min	12:00 PM
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	Poker Room	30 min	6:30 PM
Thursday, Aug 18	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	Poker Room	Seat by List	Starting at 9:00am
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	Poker Room	30 min	12:00 PM
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	Poker Room	30 min	6:30 PM
Friday, Aug 19	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	AC/IV Room	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	AC/IV Room	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
	\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$200,000 GTD Main Event	AC/IV Room	Seat by List	Starting at 8:00am
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	AC/IV Room	30 Minute	10:30 AM
	\$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1A (\$250,000 Guaranteed)*	AC/IV Room	40 Minute	4:00 PM
	<i>Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"</i>			
Saturday, Aug 20	\$60 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	AC/IV Room	Seat by List	8:00am - 10:00am
	\$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Satellite	AC/IV Room	Seat by List	8:00am - 10:00am
	\$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT \$200,000 GTD Main Event	AC/IV Room	Seat by List	8:00am - 3:00pm
	\$220+30+10 Satellite - 20% advance to \$250,000 GTD (10 Main Event Seats Guaranteed)	AC/IV Room	30 Minute	10:30 AM
	\$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1B (\$250,000 Guaranteed)*	AC/IV Room	40 Minute	4:00 PM
	<i>Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chainsaw Approved"</i>			
Sunday, Aug 21	MSPT Main Event - Day 2*	AC/IV Room	40 Minute	11:00 AM
	MSPT Main Event - Final Table**	AC/IV Room		Approx. 7:00PM
	**Worldwide Broadcast of Final Table using RFID Technology on www.msptpoker.com (if sufficient bandwidth)			

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Day-1C: Friday, August 26 10:30 AM

Day-1D: Friday, August 26 5:00 PM

Day-1E: Saturday, August 27 10:30 AM

Day-1F: Saturday, August 27 5:00 PM

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WINNERS IN THE MUCK

BY JACOB "JAYMIND" WESTLIN AND BRYAN MILESKI

I've done some research on the statistics of my poker-playing career and I'd like to share with you the results. During the course of my life, I have folded the winning hand 28,176 times. I did this the majority of the time pre-flop, with 17,045 occurrences. I folded on the flop 6,982 times, 3,088 times on the turn, 1,057 times on the river, and even four awfully stupid showdown mucks, when I, in fact, was the winner. Understandably, you may be skeptical that I've pinpointed these numbers with such accuracy. Your skepticism is founded. I'm completely making it up. But I think the point is a valid one. And the point is this: Nobody gives a shit.

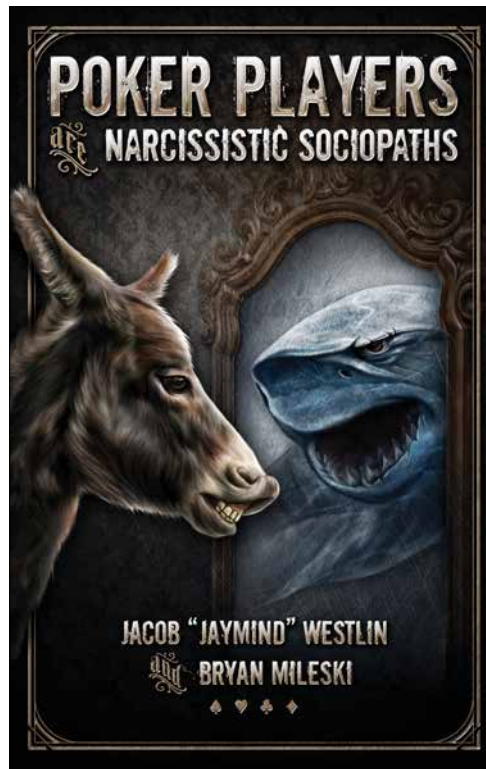
Everybody folds cards that will turn into gold! It happens several times during every session. Why, then, do your tablemates find this completely uninteresting fact to be so fascinating? There is always at least one guy at the table who informs you every single time he mucks a winner. "Oh, man, dude! I totally folded 9-3 there! Do you see that? I would've had a pair of nines!" Does anybody care about that? Even you, sir, the man who held the cards, shouldn't give a shit about that enough to give it eight seconds thought, let alone force-feeding this excruciating knowledge to your disinterested opponents.

Of the fabricated 28,176 times I've mucked a winner, I probably have shared my misfortune on 103 occasions. These rare verbalizations, however, are reserved for special circumstances. Maybe you mucked what would've been a straight flush or quads! Perhaps that information is worth discussing. But once you've mucked J♦5♣, you're not allowed to complain to me about the two-pair you would've rivered. That's poker, homeboy.

The worst manifestation of this disease is the man who tells you all about the great hand he mucked *right after* you just lost a showdown. You'll bet your top-pair on the river, and

your opponent will call you. You turn over your cards, and he flips up the two-pair hand he rivered to beat you. You're understandably a little annoyed. But your clear disgust and quiet brooding is certainly no deterrent for the uninvolved dickhead next to you who simply *must* tell you all about his hand. He leans toward you, and although you're making it abundantly clear you're not in the mood for a little chat, he says, "You know, I would've turned a flush on that hand!" Oh, really? That's fantastic! Yes, the first thing I want to hear after being rivered is that some other douchebag at the table would also have beaten my meager holding. And why, why, why does he think I care about this right now? Is he honestly expecting sympathy or understanding from me? Who loses a hand and immediately wants to listen to another player's unfortunate lost opportunity?

I simply can't fathom what makes these people think anybody else is interested in the minutiae of their poker session. It's as if they don't recognize that others don't care about their wins as much as they do. They never talk about the 7♣4♦ they mucked that turned out to be... seven-high! Perhaps that's equally worthy of discussion. In fact, these people should probably just play every single hand. That way, they'll never muck a winner. And, far more importantly, I'll never have to hear their monotonous blather again. 🙄





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MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of July 23, 2016



Thomas Boivin - Las Vegas, NV



Peixin Liu - Blaine, MN

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Thomas Boivin	\$352,153
2	Peixin Liu	\$302,452
3	Mukul Pahuja	\$300,000
4	Blake Bohn	\$275,277
5	Jason Zarlenga	\$272,194
6	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
7	Kou Vang	\$227,172
8	Richard Alsup	\$221,343
9	Travis Lauson	\$216,934
10	Carl Carodenuto	\$206,908
11	John Hayes	\$206,648
12	Keven Stammen	\$199,635
13	Thupten Thondup	\$198,015
14	David Gonia	\$180,080
15	Aaron Massey	\$177,170
16	Mark Sandness	\$176,364
17	Andrew Rubinberg	\$175,921
18	Matt Kirby	\$173,499
19	Nick Jivkov	\$173,155
20	Jeremy Dresch	\$172,258
21	Dan Sun	\$170,588
22	David Mowery	\$169,837
23	Drake Bronk	\$163,870
24	David Lee	\$160,407
25	Ryan Hartmann	\$157,058
26	Bill Rogers	\$155,904
27	Dan Hendrickson	\$155,192
28	Daniel Goepel	\$152,705
29	Jason Mirza	\$152,443
30	Rodger Johnson	\$151,135
31	Michael Rudolph	\$147,122
32	Harry Tisdale	\$142,637
33	Michael Ferrarotti	\$134,642
34	Phanora Prom	\$133,856
35	TJ Ryan	\$133,576
36	Nicholas Pupillo	\$130,807
37	Leon Morford	\$130,300
38	Matt Alexander	\$129,913
39	Michael Lang	\$128,158
40	Ervin Bjerga	\$127,349
41	Muneer Ahmed	\$126,902
42	Ryan Dykhouse	\$126,817
43	Adam Lamphere	\$123,213
44	Jason Sell	\$123,201
45	James Gibson	\$123,061
46	Reza Yazdi	\$120,765
47	Joe Matheson	\$119,609
48	Mark Johnson	\$117,087
49	Jason Seitz	\$116,060
50	Jason Smith	\$115,852

Check out complete MSPT stats page at msptpoker.com

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THU: 8am Start	High Hand <i>\$100/\$50/\$50 Hourly</i>
FRI: 8am Start	\$50 Aces Cracked & \$25 Splashed <i>\$1,500 Minimum Payout</i>
SAT: 8am - 3pm	High Hand <i>\$100/\$50/\$50 Hourly</i>
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Event Preview

MSPT RETURNS TO HO-CHUNK GAMING WISCONSIN DELLS SEPTEMBER 3-11

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

For the second time in Season 7, the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) will visit Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells in Baraboo, Wisconsin. From September 3-11, the MSPT will host a series of \$65 and \$250 qualifiers culminating in a \$1,100 buy-in, \$200,000 guarantee Main Event.

The Main Event, which requires players be 21 years of age to participate, will run from Friday, September 9 through Sunday, September 11. The tournament features two starting flights beginning Friday evening with Day 1A at 4 p.m., followed by Day 1B at the same time on Saturday. The remaining players from each flight will combine on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and play until a champion is crowned.

"Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells is a hotspot for poker," said MSPT owner and operator Bryan Mileski. "Players come from all across the Midwest for the poker action. What's more, a lot of them bring their families as there are waterparks and more just up the road."

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

Day	Event	Location	Rounds	Time
Tuesday, Aug 2	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	6:30 PM
Saturday, Aug 6	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	3:00 PM
Tuesday, Aug 9	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	6:30 PM
Saturday, Aug 13	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	3:00 PM
Tuesday, Aug 16	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	6:30 PM
Saturday, Aug 20	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	3:00 PM
Tuesday, Aug 23	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	6:30 PM
Saturday, Aug 27	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	3:00 PM
Tuesday, Aug 30	\$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room	20 Minute	6:30 PM
Saturday, Sept 3	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room	Seat by List Seat by List 30 Minute	Starting at 10:00am Starting at 10:00am 3:00 PM
Sunday, Sept 4	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room	Seat by List Seat by List 30 Minute	Starting at 10:00am Starting at 10:00am 1:00 PM
Monday, Sept 5	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room	Seat by List Seat by List 20 Minute	Starting at 10:00am Starting at 10:00am 6:30 PM
Tuesday, Sept 6	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier Ho-Chunk Gaming Bonus Event - \$55 NLHE \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room	Seat by List Seat by List 1:00 PM 30 Minute	Starting at 10:00am Starting at 10:00am 1:00 PM 6:30 PM
Wednesday, Sept 7	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$65 - Multi-Table SUPER Satellite - 20% advance to \$250 Qualifiers \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room	Seat by List Seat by List 20 Minute 30 Minute	Starting at 10:00am Starting at 10:00am 1:00 PM 6:30 PM
Thursday, Sept 8	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room	Seat by List Seat by List 30 Minute 30 Minute	Starting at 10:00am Starting at 10:00am 12:00 PM 6:30 PM
Friday, Sept 9	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT Main Event \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance \$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1A (\$200,000 Guaranteed)* Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chairman Approved"	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Asium	Seat by List Seat by List Seat by List 30 Minute 40 Minute	Starting at 9:00am Starting at 9:00am Starting at 9:00am 10:30 AM 4:00 PM
Saturday, Sept 10	\$80 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$90 - three players advance Single Table Satellites into \$250 Qualifier \$250 - two players advance Single Table Satellites into MSPT Main Event \$220+\$30+10 MSPT Main Event Qualifier - 20% advance \$1,000+\$100 MSPT Main Event Day 1B (\$200,000 Guaranteed)* Main Event Structure Designed By Allen Kessler - "Chairman Approved"	Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Poker Room Asium	Seat by List Seat by List Seat by List 30 Minute 40 Minute	9:00am - 10:00am 9:00am - 10:00am 9:00am - 3:00pm 10:30 AM 4:00 PM
Sunday, Sept 11	MSPT Main Event - Day 2* MSPT Main Event - Final Table** **Worldwide Broadcast of Final Table using RFID Technology on www.msptpoker.com (if sufficient bandwidth)	Poker Room Poker Room	40 Minute	11:00 AM Approx. 7:00PM



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WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR? PLAYING POCKET ACES IN THE WSOP MAIN EVENT

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

This summer, I was fortunate enough to play in the 2016 World Series of Poker Main Event. On Day 1b, I got to play with notables including Mid-States Poker Tour regular Mike Ross, recent bracelet winner Ray Dehkharghani, Asian pro Raiden Kan, and online sensation Timofey "Trueteller" Kuznetsov.



Chad Holloway

Despite being up against stiff competition, that night I managed to bag 89,300, up nicely from the 50,000-chip starting stack. Unfortunately on Day 2a/b, things took a turn for the worst as I was seated to the direct right of Valentin Vornicu, who would go on to bag the chip lead and ultimately finish 23rd in the tournament for \$269,430.

While he was playing in his first-ever WSOP Main Event, I knew Vornicu was an accomplished player with eight WSOP Circuit rings on his résumé. He and I engaged in some hands taking turns getting the better of one another, and after three two-hour levels of play I had worked my stack up to 155,000. I was feeling good, but there was still one hand to play before the dinner break. As fate would have it, I looked down at aces for the first and only time in the tournament.

With the blinds at 500/1,000/100, action folded to me in the cutoff and I opened for 3,000 holding the A♦A♥. I usually don't open quite so big, but Vornicu was prone to either call or three-bet my raises, so I figured he'd come along in position. At the very least, I thought someone would defend as it probably looked like I was stealing from late position.

Sure enough, Vornicu called from the button and the player in the big blind came along too to see a Q♣3♥3♠ flop. The big blind checked, and knowing Vornicu to be an aggressive player who on that day was hard pressed to pass up a betting opportunity, I checked behind. As was his M.O., Vornicu tossed out a bet of 7,500.

The big blind made the call and I was licking my chops. Given the check-call, I put the big blind on a pair of queens, while I didn't figure Vornicu for much, though I hoped he too held a queen. Whatever the case, I opted to just call and see

the J♦ turn. Again the big blind checked, I did the same, and Vornicu bet 18,500.

The big blind flatted, and at that point an alarm went off in my head. I didn't expect both players to continue at this point, so instead of check-raising Vornicu like I had intended, I just called again to see the 5♥ peel off on the river.

In hindsight, the big blind's check-call on the turn should have been setting off alarm bells in my head, doubly so when he led the river for 27,500. At this point I was thoroughly perplexed. Why lead out with two players behind? Did he have pocket queens the whole time and now wants to make sure it doesn't check around? Did he have a three, which I'm ashamed to admit I didn't really consider?

My immediate thought was that I needed to fold, but I made the mistake so many players do—I got married to the aces. I ended up calling, Vornicu folded what he said was queen-jack, and the big blind turned up the 3♣2♠ for flopped trips.

I ended up losing a third of my stack before dinner, and then straight after lost half of it to Vornicu with ace-queen against ace-five on a flop containing the other two aces (a five hit the river for those wondering).

It's hard to get away from aces, but if there's any time to it's in a tournament like the WSOP Main Event, where the stacks are deep and the structure is slow. Like the late Stu Ungar used to say, "The only thing aces are good for is winning small pots or losing big ones." 🍀

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