



MSPT

MID-STATE POKER TOUR

**NATION'S #1
POKER TOUR**
NOVEMBER 2018



Matt Stammen

WINS 2018 MICHIGAN STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP FOR \$218,565

VEERAB ZAKARIAN
WINS MSPT
SENECA NIAGARA

RICH ALSUP
EARNS MSPT
HALL OF FAME

\$500K GTD
SEASON 9
FINALE PREVIEW

PLAYER PROFILE:
MINNESOTA'S
ALEX WINTER

TIME TO MEET THE CHAMPION



MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

FOURTH CONSECUTIVE \$1 MILLION PLUS PRIZE POOL

BIGGEST TOURNAMENT IN MICHIGAN HISTORY BIGGEST MSPT TOURNAMENT OUTSIDE VEGAS



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OCTOBER 14 • MATT S.

\$218,565

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Letter from the Editor

COLORADO POKER COMMUNITY MOURNS UNEXPECTED LOSS OF DAVID STRATTON

In late September the Colorado poker community learned the sad news that David Stratton, 56, passed away after a tragic hunting accident.

Stratton was a familiar face during tournament series at Golden Gates Casino, including MSPT events. In Season 7, he finished 30th in April's MSPT Golden Gates Main Event for \$2,555, and in Season 8 placed 55th in the \$360 Regional for \$814.

All told, Stratton amassed \$59,082 playing poker as a hobby. His last cash came in April of this year when he won the Colorado State Poker Championships 4 Event #10: \$115 NLH Deepstack. Other high-

lights on his poker resumé include a career-high \$7,000 for finishing runner-up in the 2015 Colorado Championships 12 \$500 NLH Deepstack, and \$5,715 for winning the Colorado Poker Championships 14 Event #19: \$300 NLH 6-Max.

Stratton, an avid outdoorsman and professional realtor, is survived by his daughters Breanna Adamson (Doug), Brooke Stratton, Brittney Stratton, Jessica Shawcroft (Lynn); his sisters Roselyn Johnson and Nona Spencer (Steve); his grandchildren Hunter, Landon, Levi, Luke, Kaydence, and Madison; as well as 7 nephews, 1 niece, and 18 grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

"David was always protective of his family, caring, generous, and uplifting," his family wrote on Facebook. "David always found humor in everything. His smile could light up a room. David is preceded in death by his sister Deanne "Squeaker" Stratton, mother Rose Stratton, and father Edward Stratton, Jr. David's remains will rest with his parents and sister in the Mesa Arizona Cemetery."



MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

Vol. 3/No. 11

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Our Mission

MSPT Magazine is a monthly magazine dedicated to serving poker players and gaming facilities through MSPT news, results, tournament schedules, player profiles and professional tips. Coupled with our website, msptpoker.com, we are the Nation's #1 Poker Tour.

Mid-States Poker Tour

Lakeville, MN
612-743-9847

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RICH ALSUP

EARNs INDUCTION INTO MSPT HALL OF FAME

MSPT Hall of Fame

RICH ALSUP BECOMES SECOND PLAYER TO EARN WAY INTO MSPT HALL OF FAME

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

September's stop at Canterbury Park was one of the most memorable stops in MSPT history. Not only did Blake Bohn become a three-time champ, Rich Alsup won his way into the MSPT Hall of Fame, becoming just the second player to do so.

Alsup, who was that tournament's Day 1A chip leader, finished the tournament in third place for \$41,966. Interestingly, the only other player in the MSPT Hall of Fame, Kou Vang, placed one spot better for \$58,232.

The MSPT Hall of Fame requires players to accomplish certain criteria to earn their way in. One way is to have ten MSPT final tables and either a MSPT title or MSPT Player of the Year award. For Alsup, the Canterbury Park was his tenth final table—a tour record—and he also has both an MSPT title (he won the MSPT Season 6 Meskwaki) and POY title from Season 7.

"I feel incredible," Alsup told MSPT officials of the accomplishment. "I'm in the zone and just want to keep playing more MTTs across the country. I owe my success to many years of studying the game, and it doesn't hurt to have Rob Wazwaz as a travel buddy. It doesn't hurt to be a little lucky as well."

Alsup's elimination in third place was his 22nd MSPT main event cash (3rd all-time) and brought his lifetime MSPT earnings up to \$653,426, less than \$30K outside the all-time lead. That is especially impressive when you consider he didn't start playing the tour until Season 5 in 2014. Achieving MSPT Hall of Fame status in that short of time is truly incredible.

"I've been blessed with amazing friends and family in my life who inspire me every day," Alsup added. "Having a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle has helped to keep me focused when I am at the table. Being mentally sharp is the most important aspect of the game for me. Having a fulfilling



Rich Alsup

life outside of the poker room has been the primary contributor to my success."

Back in Season 6, Alsup finished runner-up in the March MSPT Meskwaki for \$53,756 and returned in November to win the same tournament for \$101,229. It was a great year but he ultimately finished runner-up to Mark Hodge in the Player of the Year Race.

Not discouraged, Alsup returned in Season 7 to win the POY title thanks to three final table appearances, including a runner-up finish to his good friend Carl Carodenuto in the MSPT Season 7 Golden Gates, good for \$68,919. More recently, Alsup placed third in this past summer's MSPT Venetian \$1,600 Main Event for a career-high \$273,430.

As of the end of September, Alsup has \$950,659 in lifetime tournament earnings, which puts him 17th on Minnesota's all-time money list. 🎰

WHY SETTLE FOR TEQUILA?

STEP UP TO KIMO SABE



TRIPLE AWARD WINNER





MSPT
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Standings as of October 31, 2018

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Aaron Johnson	5,617
2	Blake Bohn	4,400
3	Kou Vang	4,300
4	Alex Winter	3,650
5	Richard Alsup	3,100
6	Greg Himmelbrand	2,750
7	Osama Aweida	2,600
8	Adam Friedman	2,350
9	Pavel Plesuv	2,250
10	David Levine	2,200
	Lou Garza	2,200
12	Ahmed Taleb	2,150
13	Henry Zou	2,100
14	Felipe Davila	2,000
	Tyreem Williams	2,000
	Michael Soyza	2,000
17	Travis Sweet	1,942
18	Matthew Stammen	1,900
	Mark Brazis	1,900
	Ken Kao	1,900
21	Vincent Moscati	1,850
22	Brian Soja	1,800
	John Reading	1,800
	Frank Lagodich	1,800
	Kfir Nahum	1,800
	Scott Massimiano	1,800
	Jeremy Saderne	1,800



Aaron Johnson - Red Wing, MN

♦All players who cash in a 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, four MSPT \$1,100 Main Event buy-ins, \$250 toward a satellite or Main Event at every MSPT event the following season (max \$4,250), as well as a \$1,100 Main Event seat with \$400 travel to Venetian Mid-Season Championship - over \$10,000 value

♦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 2018, visit www.msptpoker.com/pages/poy



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Event Recap

CANADA'S VEERAB ZAKARIAN WINS INAUGURAL MSPT SENECA NIAGARA MAIN EVENT

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY



Veerab Zakarian

The MSPT's first-ever visit to New York attracted 264 entrants to Seneca Niagara Casino, and after a full weekend of play, it was 22-year-old Veerab Zakarian of Ontario, Canada who walked away as champion for \$63,340.

"I feel pretty good, I didn't expect to win," Zakarian said. "It feels pretty good, you know. I just know I ran really good today. I'm just thankful."

It was a career-high score for the Toronto poker pro. Prior to the win, he had \$227,514 in live tournament earnings including a prior best of \$40,000 for finishing runner-up in the 2014 Seneca Niagara Fall Poker Classic Main Event. Other highlights on his poker résumé include \$29,394 for finishing third in the 2016 Seneca Niagara Fall Poker Classic Main Event, \$25,000 for winning the 2017 Empire State Hold'em

Championships Event #1: \$570 NLH, and \$21,960 for taking second in the 2018 Lucky Hearts Poker Open Event #6: \$1,150 Purple Chip Bounty.

Interestingly, Zakarian is good friends with MSPT Season 8 Player of the Year Chris Meyers. In fact, Meyers credits Zakarian for keeping him in the game by encouraging him to stay on the grind during a rough patch. That led to Meyers winning the 2017 MSPT Michigan State Poker Championship.

"I'm happy he won and I get to do something he did," Zakarian said of his win. "He's talked very nice about me in interviews so now I get to do the same thing."

On Day 2, 51 players returned to action, but with only 27 of them slated to get paid, nearly half the field walked away emptyhanded including Scotty Gaddi, Henry Zou, Buck Ram-

Seneca Niagara Casino

say, Greg Ostrander, Andy Spears, Dan Wagner, Frank Lagodich, 2017 MNPokerMag POY Todd Melander, and bubble boy Darwin Smith, who fell after a two-hour long bubble.

Among those to finish in the money but fall short of the final table were Day 1B chip leader Maria Parlatore (11th - \$4,654), MSPT Season 8 Player of the Year Chris Meyers (14th - \$3,878), MSPT Season 5 champ Ken Baime (24th - \$2,379), and Day 1A chip leader Ilan Kandiah (27th - \$2,172).

The final table got off to a quick start with 2018 MSPT Iowa State Poker Champion Brian Soja bowing out when his pocket queens lost a race to ace-king. Not long after, Thomas Smolinski lost his short stack with ace-five to Zakarian's pocket kings.

In the very next hand, Zakarian picked up pocket rockets to send Derrick Brown, who got it in with king-ten, out in eighth place, and Budwey Foster followed him out the door in seventh when his ace-jack failed to win a flip against Adam Foster's pocket nines.

Michigan's Steve Anderson, the last MSPT regular in the field, was the next to go after shoving king-jack only to have Zakarian once again wake up with aces. That allowed Zakarian to chip up to over half the chips in play.

Zakarian then used Big Slick to dispatch Matt Dziomba, who held king-queen, before Paul Butski took care of Day 1C chip leader Aaron Olshan, the result of the former's ace-



Seneca Niagara Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 264 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Veerab Zakarian	Toronto, Canada	\$63,340
2	Paul Butski	Scio, NY	\$39,169
3	Adam Foster	Rochester, NY	\$28,181
4	Aaron Olshan	Amherst, NY	\$20,683
5	Matthew Dziomba	Kenmore, NY	\$15,512
6	Steve Anderson (MI)	Clarklake, MI	\$11,893
7	Budwey Salhab	Williamsville, NY	\$9,049
8	Derrick Brown	Mount Clemens, MI	\$7,239
9	Thomas Smolinski	West Seneca, NY	\$5,688
10	Brian Soja	New Brighton, MN	\$4,654

queen holding against the latter's king-queen.

After the elimination of Adam Foster, Zakarian began heads-up play with a 2-1 chip lead over Butski. The duo jostled for a bit before Butski called off holding ace-ten off-suit against Zakarian's king-queen. Butski held through the flop and turn, but a king on the river put the final nail in his coffin. 🕒



Final Table



WHEN YOUR CHIP STACK STARTS TO LOOK LIKE A SMALL CITY.

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NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHT: MSPT SATELLITES

\$65 SATELLITES

Sunday, Nov. 4.....2:30 PM
 Thursday, Nov. 8.....6:30 PM
 Sunday, Nov. 11.....2:30 PM.
 Sunday, Nov. 18.....2:30 PM.
 Friday, Nov. 23.....4:30 PM
 Saturday, Nov. 24.....4:30 PM
 Sunday, Nov. 25.....2:30 PM
 Thursday, Nov. 29.....6:30 PM

20% advance to \$250 Satellite

\$250 SATELLITES

Saturday, Nov. 10.....10:30 AM
 Saturday, Nov. 17.....10:30 AM
 Wednesday, Nov. 21.....6:30 PM
 Saturday, Nov. 24.....10:30 AM
 Wednesday, Nov. 28.....6:30 PM

20% advance to Main Event

DECEMBER MSPT

\$500,000 Main Event: Dec. 6 - 9

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS NLH

November 11

VETERANS DAY NLH

November 15

MSPT - \$500K GUARANTEE
December 6-9 • \$1,100 Buy-in

RACEBOOK OPEN DAILY

Event Preview

MSPT SEASON 9 FINALE AT CANTERBURY PARK DEC. 1-9 FEATURES \$500,000 GTD MAIN EVENT

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

Season 9 of the Mid-States Poker Tour will come to a close December 1-9 at Minnesota's Canterbury Park, home to the first-ever MSPT event. We're going out with a bang by offering a \$500,000 guarantee on the \$1,100 Main Event, which will take place on Thursday, December 6 through Sunday, December 9.

The venue, which requires players be 18 years or older, will host a series of \$65 and \$250 satellites in the weeks leading up to the final Main Event of the season.

The Main Event will offer three starting flights beginning with Day 1A at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6. Days 1B and 1C will take place at the same time on Friday, Dec. 7 and Sat. Dec. 8 respectively. The surviving players from each flight will then return at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9 to play down to a winner.

The 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 entire Main Event will be live reported in the MSPT live blog.

The MSPT has hosted 17 Main Events at Canterbury Park over the years. Most recently, Blake Bohn made history by topping a 456-entry field to win September's event for \$94,568 and his third MSPT title. It was also at that stop Rich Alsup earned his way into MSPT Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile, April's event attracted 526 entries to make it the largest major poker tournament (\$1K+ buy-in) in Minnesota history. Rob Wazwaz took down the tournament for \$109,375. In February's event, which drew 491 entries, Illinois' Mark Collins walked away with a \$102,076 top prize.

In last year's MSPT Season 8 finale at Canterbury Park, Ben Marsh prevailed over a 493-entry field to win his second MSPT title for \$102,493. Other MSPT Canterbury champs from the past include Carl Carodenuto (April 2016 for \$90,805 and December 2015 for \$116,103), Dan "DQ" Hendrickson (April



Ben Marsh

2015 for \$106,182), Mike Wilmes (April 2014 for \$108,984), Adam Younis (April 2013 for \$95,328), and inaugural champ John Dragich (2009 for \$34,765).

Recently, Canterbury Park unveiled a \$400-million redevelopment plan that would facilitate the development of restaurants, hotels, entertainment, offices, medical, retail and commercial recreational uses. Plans include an extended-stay hotel, boutique hotel, hotel and water park, an office space, new restaurants, specialty options, family entertainment venues and more. The live part includes a luxury apartment complex, upscale townhomes, and a senior housing co-op. The vision for the redevelopment is a place to "live, stay, work, play."

We're expecting the season finale to be a huge affair, so we've worked out some special rates with nearby hotels for as little as \$39/night. Visit msptpoker.com for full details. 🍀

Event Recap

MATT STAMMEN WINS 2018 MSPT MICHIGAN STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP FOR \$218,565

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

The 2018 MSPT Michigan State Poker Championship at Fire-Keepers Casino in Battle Creek, Michigan drew 1,271 entries, which resulted in the fourth consecutive visit with a \$1,000,000+ prize pool!

After three starting flights and a long Day 2, Matt Stammen, the elder brother of well-known poker pro Keven Stammen, emerged victorious to capture his first major title and \$218,565 in prize money.

"I'm elated, what can I say? It's unbelievable," Stammen said after the victory. "I threw my money in the hat and it worked out."

Stammen, a shipping manager in an Ohio machine shop earning his first MSPT cash, had this to say on his poker-famous brother: "He's 12 years younger. He's been yelling at me the whole tournament. He's been giving me a little bit of advice, let's put it that way. It's all about the trophy, I wanted one of those trophies so bad. The money is a bonus."

Brother Keven Stammen has cashed four times on the MSPT including a runner-up finish to Angelina Rich at The Venetian back in 2015, Keven took home \$199,635 for that deep run.

Amazingly, Stammen had a surgery scheduled for Monday morning, which he planned to attend just three hours after shipping one of the Midwest's most prestigious titles.

"The weekend went perfect," he said. "I asked them to move my surgery back just in case this happened. It was like it was all meant to be. I've got foot drop, so they're going to cut a hole in my knee to loosen up a nerve. I'll be off work the next 4-6 weeks."

Day 2 saw 173 players return to action but with only 135 getting paid, 38 would leave empty handed including defending champ Chris Meyers, two-time MSPT champ Greg Him-



Matt Stammen

melbrand, and joint bubble victims Miles Reinhard and Dee Bell.

Among those to cash but fall short of the final table were Nick Pupillo (11th - \$17,239), 2017 MSPT Iowa State Poker Champion Carter Myers (14th - \$13,545), last year's runner-up Millard Hale (22nd - \$8,127), current MSPT Kimo Sabe Mezcal Season 9 POY points leader Aaron Johnson (32nd - \$5,172), Michael Lech (41st - \$4,064), MSPT Hall of Famer Kou Vang (50th - \$3,571), 2017 MSPT Indiana State Poker Champ Satish Thakur (58th - \$3,202), start-of-the-day chip leader Irbrahim Shoubah (96th - \$2,586), and World Poker Tour champ Ravi Raghavan (116th - \$2,216).

Final Table Action

On the first hand of the final table, a short-stacked Derek Ritchie, also earning his first MSPT cash, shoved holding king-eight suited only to run into Isaac Kratchman's pocket

FireKeepers Casino

tens. The board ran out clean and Ritchie was the first to fall, good for \$17,239.

Not long after, Dennis Brady bowed out in ninth place after running pocket threes into the kings of Matt Stammen, and then Jason Mangold exited in eighth losing ace-jack suited to Kratchman's pocket kings all in preflop. This was Brady's and Mangold's first MSPT cash as well.

Frank Lagodich was the next to go in seventh place for \$33,247 after losing ace-ten to Joey Wideman's ace-jack, this was Lagodich's second MSPT cash, previously finishing fourteenth. Germany's Heinz Schluter followed him out the door in sixth for \$43,098.

It took a while for the next players to fall but happened when Victor Gayheart got his short stack all in preflop holding ace-nine and failed to get there against Kratchman's pocket queens. Poker pro Maurice Hawkins, who was a few hours late showing up for Day 2 after attending his 20-year high school reunion, lost ace-five to Wideman's pocket eights to lose most of his chips. He'd lose the rest a short time later to bust in fourth place for \$75,273. Hawkins' third MSPT cash and first final table brought his career earnings to over \$3.4 million.

Kratchman, the Day 1A chip leader, hit the rail in third place after the blinds and antes got too high. He jammed holding ace-nine and failed to hold against Stammen's king-



FireKeepers Casino

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 1,271 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Matthew Stammen	Coldwater, OH	\$218,565
2	Joey Wideman	Belle Chasse, LA	\$135,451
3	Isaac Kratchman	Detroit, MI	\$98,510
4	Maurice Hawkins	Lake Worth, FL	\$75,237
5	Victor Gayheart	Plainwell, MI	\$56,643
6	Heinz Schluter	Denver, CO	\$43,098
7	Frank Lagodich	Canton, OH	\$33,247
8	Jason Mangold	Chicago, IL	\$25,859
9	Dennis Brady	Traverse City, MI	\$20,933
10	Derek Ritchie	New Boston, MI	\$17,239

jack. Kratchman now has three MSPT cashes, one in each of the last three seasons.

On Hand #234 of the marathon final table, the final hand of the tournament took place when Stammen jammed holding ace-jack suited and Wideman called off with ten-nine. The latter flopped a gutshot straight draw but missed the turn and river to bust in second place for \$135,451. 🍀



Final Table



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Our comfortable 20-table poker room features tableside service and caters to real players with daily promotions and big-time tournaments like WSOP Circuit Events and the Mid-States Poker Tour: Wisconsin State Poker Championship (November 10–18) and other national/regional events.

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MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of October 31, 2018

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Pavel Plesuv	\$681,212
2	Richard Alsup	\$653,426
3	Michael Soyza	\$588,249
4	David Levine	\$495,500
5	Blake Bohn	\$475,661
6	Thomas Boivin	\$450,355
7	Felipe Davila	\$405,500
8	Nadar Kakhmazov	\$395,888
9	Yat Cheng	\$392,806
10	Kou Vang	\$378,608
11	Jeremy Saderne	\$364,573
12	Carl Carodenuto	\$351,294
13	Aaron Massey	\$345,171
14	Peixin Liu	\$318,857
15	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
16	Mukul Pahuja	\$304,491
17	Jason Zarlenga	\$298,379
18	James Romero	\$294,445
19	Rob WazWaz	\$283,584
20	Mike Shanahan	\$278,607
21	Jeremy Dresch	\$272,741
22	Lou Garza	\$269,639
23	Chris Meyers	\$257,834
24	Aaron Johnson	\$250,981
25	Alex Foxen	\$239,000
26	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
27	Greg Himmelbrand	\$231,690
28	Osama Aweida	\$230,084
29	Keith Heine	\$226,216
30	Richard Bai	\$226,044
31	Mark Brazis	\$221,323
32	Joni Joughkainen	\$221,304
33	Travis Lauson	\$220,117
34	Matthew Stammen	\$218,565
35	Glen Nguyen	\$215,430
36	John Hayes	\$209,395
37	Maury Solano	\$209,244
38	Keven Stammen	\$207,400
39	Andrew Rubinberg	\$206,761
40	Kristen Bicknell	\$203,729
41	Hao "John" Sun	\$202,440
42	Brett Blackwood	\$199,508
43	Thupten Thondup	\$198,015
44	Scott Massimiano	\$197,833
45	Mark Sandness	\$195,254
46	David Gonia	\$194,803
47	Jonathan Kim (MN)	\$193,976
48	Ben Marsh	\$189,438
49	Nick Jivkov	\$180,202
50	Dan Hendrickson	\$179,240



Pavel Plesuv - Moldova, Prague

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BINGO CASINO HOTEL

Player Profile

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: MINNESOTA'S ALEX WINTER TAKES MSPT BY STORM IN SEASON 9

BY BRANDON TEMPLE

Alex Winter, a 26-year-old Software Engineer from Rosville, Minnesota has made a name for himself during his first year playing the MSPT. He's notched six total cashes on tour this year, including three final table appearances, which ties him with two-time MSPT Champ Blake Bohn and current Kimo Sabe Mezcal POY leader Aaron Johnson for the most final tables on tour this season.

Winter's year started with a fourteenth-place finish at MSPT Canterbury Park's April Main Event, where he claimed \$6,105. The hot streak for Winter truly began at July's 2018 MSPT Iowa State Poker Championship, where he earned \$14,075 for his seventh-place finish. Two weeks later, he went back home to Canterbury Park and earned \$2,533 by finishing twenty-first at Canterbury's Regional Event. After a nineteenth-place finish at the MSPT Indiana State Poker Championship the following week, he followed that up the next week with another final table at MSPT Grand Falls, where he finished fourth and took home \$18,071.

Two weeks later, Winter found himself at his third final table of the season, second final table in a row and fifth straight event with a cash when he finished third at MSPT The Venetian for a career-best \$36,210, pushing his year-to-date tour earnings to \$80,105. His epic month on tour also has him in the thick of the Kimo Sabe Mezcal MSPT Season 9 Player of the Year Race, as he sits in fourth-place with an impressive 3,650 points.

"I've played poker since I was 16, but this is the first year I've really taken it seriously," Winter said when asked about his poker prowess. "This is the first year I've played the MSPT, and I'm happy with the results, but what I'd really like more than that is to catch Aaron Johnson and win the POY."

Winter also has a very popular hobby to a lot of people -- streaming on Twitch, where he currently streams Fortnite, the uber-popular Battle Royale game. He uses the handle @ObesePuppy for Twitch as well as Twitter, saying, "This came from way back in the day, when XBOX 360 first came out it could auto generate a name for you. I got ObeseKitten as one of them. I like dogs more, so I eventually switched it to ObesePuppy." Winter's play on Twitch has fluctuated over the years: "I used to have a decent following on Twitch, but I play pretty sporadically, so it's fallen off a bit."

Winter still boasts over 2,500 followers on his Twitch channel, and he cited some of the parallels between streaming



Alex Winter

video games and poker, saying: "It's a social game, and the social aspect of streaming helps me with situations in poker. You do a lot of building, you set traps, and you do a lot of similar things in poker."

Alex also picked up a nickname back at the MSPT Meskwaiki, where Tom and Sherry Hammers added "F'n" to his name during a hand reported in the live updates. In it, Winter flopped a set and shipped a double against his opponent. "After playing with them for a while and just having a good time at the table, Tom just started calling me Alex 'F'n' Winter and that's where it all started. I actually really like it. It seems pretty unique to be called that, so why not?"

Winter has stated that he plans to play the majority of the remaining events on tour for the season, so he still has an outside chance to catch to and claim the POY title. If he can replicate his results from July and August in the closing two months of the season, there's a great chance that you'll be seeing Winter as the Season 9 Kimo Sabe Mezcal Player of the Year. 🍀



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MSPT Burger

MSPT BURGER RETURNS TO PLAYERS BAR FOR 2018 MSPT WISCONSIN STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

BY MSPT POKER STAFF

For the second year in a row, the MSPT is joining forces with legendary Madison sports bar Players Bar, owned by Mark “POker HO” Kroon, to offer an MSPT Burger in the week and a half leading up to the tournament (November 5-14).

Anyone who buys an MSPT Burger at Player’s Bar will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$250 satellite seat. A winner will be drawn on Wednesday, November 14. That means you could potentially win your way into the \$1,100 Main Event for the cost of a burger.

Players Bar, named one of Madison’s best dive bars, is known for their popular “Burger of the Week,” and the MSPT Burger will grace the menu, albeit this time with a different recipe.

M = Mozzarella

S = Sticks (as in Mozzarella sticks on the burger)

P = Pepperoni

T = Tomato sauce (AKA Marinara)

Of course, it’ll be served with fries on the side!

“We offer one of the best burgers in town, and the MSPT Burger is no exception,” Kroon added. “Not only will you be entered into a drawing just for buying a burger, Players Bar will donate \$1 to charity for every MSPT Burger sold.”

Players Bar is located at 2013 Winnebago Street, Madison, Wisconsin and open daily from 11AM-2AM. 🍷



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Strategy presented by Jonathan Little

JONATHAN LITTLE BREAKS DOWN HAND FROM MSPT GRAND FALLS

BY CHAD HOLLOWAY

Tournament poker is full of different poker strategies, and this is evidenced by the different styles we see at each MSPT stop. One hand at our 2018 MSPT Grand Falls Main Event—a \$1,100 buy-in tournament that drew 226 entries—was a great example.

The hand took place in Level 14 (1,200/2,400/400) and led to the demise of Gary Germann. It began when Josh Skogen limped from UTG, and Gary Germann raised to 7,000 from UTG+1. World Series of Poker bracelet winner Eric Rodawig called from the hijack, as did Demetrios Sengos in the cutoff.

Skogen called the raise and then led out for 15,000 on a 7♣J♣2♣ flop, which Germann and Sengos called, while Rodawig ducked out of the way.

On the K♠ turn, Skogen checked and Germann immediately jammed for 62,300, sending Sengos deep into the tank. After a few minutes, he folded, and Skogen, who only had about 90,000 behind, shrugged and said, “I came here to gamble, I call.”

Skogen: 10♣9♣

Germann: Q♠J♠

Germann's pair of jacks and queen-high spade flush draw was in the lead, but Skogen had plenty of outs with a double-gutter straight draw as well as a club draw. The K♣ hit the river, giving Skogen the flush and the victory. Josh Skogen chipped up to 235,000 (98 bb) after the hand while Gary Germann hit the rail.

We consulted Jonathan Little of PokerCoaching.com to get his take on the hand.

MSPT: Thoughts on Germann's raise UTG+1 with QxJx suited after the UTG player had limped? Good or bad move?

Little: Facing an UTG limp, I would likely limp behind with QxJx suited, but raising can't be too bad either. I would be afraid the limper was looking to trap some portion of the time, forcing QxJx suited to fold to a limp/re-raise. If I was going to raise, I would make it larger to have some fold equity, because when you make it only 4,400 more, UTG is never folding. However, if you make it larger, you lose more when you get trapped, so I think QxJx suited should either limp or fold.

What are your thoughts on the turn play in this hand?

Little: Well, on the flop, Skogen's lead is quite interesting. I would tend to check, looking to check-raise all in, but it is difficult to know if that is ideal because I have no clue what Skogen is doing with the rest of his range. It is often good to apply pressure with your best draws when the board should be good for your range.

As for the turn play, I think has an easy all-in. Checking leads to the nasty situation where you face a bet and are getting a somewhat break-even price to call. If that is likely to happen, you would much prefer to go all-in yourself in order to generate some fold equity. In this instance, Q-J may have folded to the all-in, which would have been a huge success for T-9.

Once faced with the all-in, 10♣9♣ is getting roughly the right price to call, assuming all obvious outs are live. Since the jammer could easily have a better draw though, the 10♣9♣ should be folded unless Skogen thinks he is at a severe skill disadvantage against the remaining players in the event. 🍀



Josh Skogen



Gary Germann



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