



# MSPT

MID-STATES POKER TOUR

NATION'S #1  
POKER TOUR  
NOVEMBER 2019



## Eric Baldwin

**WINS HIS FIRST MSPT TITLE AT THE VENETIAN LAS VEGAS**

MARK HODGE  
ENTERS MSPT  
HALL OF FAME

MSPT DENVER  
POKER OPEN  
NOV. 13-24

CANTERBURY  
SEASON 10 FINALE  
DEC. 5-8

STRATEGY WITH  
JONATHAN  
LITTLE

MSPT  
GTO LIFE  
NOVEMBER





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# Letter From the Publisher

## FIREKEEPERS POKER ROOM HITS 6TH STRAIGHT MSPT \$1M PRIZE POOL

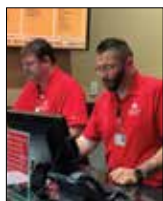
BY BRYAN MILES KI

I've been asked countless times how the numbers for MSPT at FireKeepers Casino are so massive? How do they do it? After all, the property sits in the town of Battle Creek, MI with a population of just 51,000 people. The closest major city—Detroit—is over 100 miles away, Chicago is roughly 130 miles from FireKeepers.

Yet, the Poker Room at FireKeepers Casino has hosted six consecutive \$1M MSPT prize pools. The most recent event October 10-13 attracted a state record 1,615-entries for the \$1,100 buy-in event.

There are so many reasons this property is successful, too many to list. Ultimately they just get it, all the departments work well together and own it. The Michigan player base is also second to none.

Throughout each MSPT event we give a lot of love to our dealers by posting pics of them in our photo galleries, and the FireKeepers crew of dealers are awesome. We wanted to take a moment to introduce you to the Floor Staff of the FireKeepers Poker Room that work extremely long, stressful hours and do a fantastic job keeping up with the huge crowds. 🍀



**MSPT**  
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

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### Our Mission

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

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Top to bottom, left to right: John Najjar, John Holcomb, Michelle McCormick, April King, Mike Sutfin, Ralph Bates & Steve Salamey, Nick Clark, Andrew Krebill



**MSPT**  
MID-STATES POKER TOUR

**November 13-24, 2019**  
**Black Hawk, CO**



## MSPT SIGNATURE SERIES - DENVER POKER OPEN

DATE	EVENT #	EVENT NAME	EVENT STARTS	GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL	STARTING CHIPS	LENGTH OF LEVELS	LOCATION
Wednesday, 11/13		\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		8,000	15	Poker Room
	1	\$360 MSPT Day 1A (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	20,000	30	Poker Room
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Thursday, 11/14		\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		8,000	15	Poker Room
	1	\$360 MSPT Day 1B (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	20,000	30	Poker Room
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Friday, 11/15		\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		8,000	15	Poker Room
	1	\$360 MSPT Day 1C (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	20,000	30	Poker Room
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Saturday, 11/16		\$75 Mega Satellite - 1/6 advance to \$150K GTD	10:00 AM		8,000	15	Poker Room
	1	\$360 MSPT Day 1D (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	20,000	30	Poker Room
		\$265 Main Event Satellite	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Sunday, 11/17		\$60 NLHE Casino Event	10:00 AM		5,000	15	Poker Room
	1	\$360 MSPT Day 2 (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$150K GTD	12:00 PM	\$150,000	20,000	30	Poker Room
	2	\$250 NLHE Sunday Feast (Trophy Event)	3:00 PM		12,000	30	Poker Room
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Monday, 11/18		\$60 NLHE Casino Event	10:00 AM		5,000	15	Poker Room
	3	\$250 NLHE Seniors (50+) (Trophy Event)	12:00 PM		10,000	30	Poker Room
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Tuesday, 11/19		\$60 NLHE Casino Event	10:00 AM		5,000	15	Poker Room
		\$265 Main Event Satellite	12:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
	4	\$250 MSPT Tag Team Championship (Trophy Event)	6:00 PM		10,000	20	Poker Room
Wednesday, 11/20		\$60 NLHE Casino Event	10:00 AM		5,000	15	Poker Room
	5	\$250 NLHE (Trophy Event)	12:00 PM		12,000	30	Poker Room
	6	\$185 MSPT Turbo Deep Stack (Trophy Event)	3:00 PM		15,000	15	Poker Room
		\$265 Main Event Satellite	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Thursday, 11/21		\$60 NLHE Casino Event	10:00 AM		5,000	15	Poker Room
	7	\$1,110 Main Event Day 1A (2-day Trophy Event) - \$200K GTD	12:00 PM	\$200,000	20,000	40	Poker Room
		\$265 Main Event Satellite	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Friday, 11/22		\$265 Main Event Satellite	10:00 AM		12,000	20	Poker Room
	7	\$1,110 Main Event Day 1B (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$200K GTD	12:00 PM	\$200,000	20,000	40	Poker Room
		\$265 Main Event Satellite	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Saturday, 11/23		\$265 Main Event Satellite	10:00 AM		12,000	20	Poker Room
	7	\$1,110 Main Event Day 1C (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$200K GTD	12:00 PM	\$200,000	20,000	40	Poker Room
		\$135 Nightly Deep Stack	7:00 PM		12,000	20	Poker Room
Sunday, 11/24	7	\$1,110 Main Event Restart (2-Day Trophy Event) - \$200K GTD	11:00 AM	\$200,000	2,000	40	Poker Room
	8	\$250 NLHE Sunday Feast (Trophy Event)	2:00 PM		12,000	30	Poker Room

Players must be 21+ years of age or older, have a valid ID and Casino player's card

Follow updates at [msptpoker.com](http://msptpoker.com)

Management reserves the right to change, amend or cancel at its sole discretion without prior notice

## Event Preview

# MSPT SIGNATURE SERIES RETURNS TO GOLDEN GATES CASINO FOR THE 2019 DENVER POKER OPEN, NOVEMBER 13-24

BY MSPT STAFF

For the second time in Season 10, the MSPT is headed to Black Hawk, Colorado for the MSPT Signature Series “Denver Poker Open” November 13-24 which includes both a \$360 buy-in Regional Event boasting a \$150K Guarantee and a \$1,10 buy-in Main Event with a \$200K Guarantee.

Golden Gates Casino resides in Black Hawk, which is about an hour west of Denver. This Signature Series will include 8 total trophy events, morning and nightly cash tournaments as well as satellites into the two main events.

The first tournament of the series, the MSPT Golden Gates \$360 Regional, will feature four starting flights at Noon each day from Wednesday, November 13 through Saturday, November 16. The surviving players from each flight will then combine for Day 2 on Sunday, November 17 at 12:00 PM to play down to a winner.

The last time the MSPT visited the property for a Regional Event was back in April when Aaron Frei defeated a field of 778 entrants to earn 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.

The weekend after the Regional Event, the highly-anticipated \$1,110 buy-in MSPT Main Event will kick off. That event will feature three starting flights beginning with Day 1A at Noon local time on Thursday, November 21. Days 1B and 1C will then be held at the same time on Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23 respectively. The remaining players from each flight will combine on Sunday, November 24 at 11:00 a.m. and play until a champion is crowned.

At the same time one year ago, the MSPT Golden Gates Denver Poker Open Main Event—the ninth ever held at the venue—drew 383 runners and saw Mike Itoafa outlast the field to earn \$81,735!

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



Mike Itoafa







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## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHT: MSPT SATELLITES

### \$65 SATELLITES

Sunday, Nov. 3.....2:30 PM  
Thursday, Nov. 7.....6:30 PM  
Sunday, Nov. 10.....2:30 PM  
Sunday, Nov. 17.....2:30 PM  
Thursday, Nov. 21.....6:30 PM  
Friday, Nov. 22.....6:30 PM  
Saturday, Nov. 23.....6:30 PM  
Sunday, Nov. 24.....2:30 PM  
Saturday, Nov. 30.....6:30 PM

*20% advance to \$250 Satellite*

### \$250 SATELLITES

Saturday, Nov. 16.....10:30 AM  
Wednesday, Nov. 20.....6:30 PM  
Saturday, Nov. 23.....10:30 AM  
Wednesday, Nov. 27.....6:30 PM  
Saturday, Nov. 30.....10:30 AM

*20% advance to Main Event*

### DECEMBER MSPT

\$500,000 Main Event: Dec. 5 - 8

### CHARGER CHARLIE MEMORIAL NLH

November 10

### VETERANS DAY NLH

November 14

### BLACK FRIDAY NLH

November 29

### 2 FOR 1 DRINKS - ALL DAY

November 27

*feautred drinks only.*

## Event Preview

# MSPT SEASON 10 FINALE AT CANTERBURY PARK DEC. 5-8 FEATURES \$500,000 GTD MAIN EVENT

BY MSPT STAFF

Season 10 of the MSPT will come to a close at Minnesota's Canterbury Park, home to the first-ever MSPT event. For the second consecutive year the MSPT is ending the season with a bang by offering a \$500,000 guarantee on the \$1,100 Main Event, which will take place on Thursday, December 5 through Sunday, December 8.

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. 5. Days 1B and 1C will take place at the same time on Friday, Dec. 6 and Sat. Dec. 7 respectively. The surviving players from each flight will then return at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 to play down to a winner.

The final table will be broadcast LIVE (15-minute delay) worldwide on [msptpoker.com](http://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, Michael Esquivel topped a 472-entry field to win September's event for \$98,113 earning his first MSPT title. It was also at that stop Mark Hodge earned his way into MSPT Hall of Fame.

In last year's MSPT Season 9 finale at Canterbury Park, Andy Rubinberg prevailed over a 977-entry field to win his second MSPT title for \$179,776! In December 2018, it was Ben Marsh who emerged victorious outlasting a 493-entry field to also win his second MSPT title for \$102,493. Other MSPT Canterbury champs from the past include Mark Jaroslawski (April 2019 for \$95,700), Matt Kirby (February 2019 for \$99,573), Blake Bohn (September 2018 for \$94,568), Rob Wazwaz (April 2018 for \$109,375), Mark Collins (February 2018 for \$102,076), Carl Carodenuto (April 2016 for \$90,805 and December 2015 for \$116,103), Dan "DQ" Hendrickson (April 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 entertain-



Andy Rubinberg



ment venues and more. The live part includes a luxury apartment complex, upscale townhomes, and a senior housing cop. 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](http://msptpoker.com) for full details. 🎰





# Mark Hodge

WINS WAY INTO MSPT HALL OF FAME



## MSPT HALL OF FAME

# MARK HODGE WINS WAY INTO MSPT HALL OF FAME

BY MSPT STAFF

**T**he MSPT Hall of Fame was launched in 2017, but unlike other HoFs, there is no voting players in. Instead, there is a list of criteria players must meet in order to earn their way in. That criteria includes:

- Achieve a minimum of 25 MSPT Main Event Cashes and 1 MSPT Win OR 1 MSPT Player of the Year

OR

- Achieve a minimum of 10 MSPT Main Event Final Tables and 1 MSPT Win OR 1 MSPT Player of the Year

Thanks to his 23rd-place finish for \$3,514 in the September Canterbury Park Main Event, Mark Hodge became the fourth player to win their way into the MSPT Hall of Fame.

Over the years, Hodge has done most of his damage while living in a western suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota, but in May of 2018 he and his wife Christine moved to Fernandina Beach, Florida, meaning he had to travel a lot further to finish off his Hall of Fame run.

Hodge's first MSPT cash came in September 2011 (Season 2) at Treasure Island Casino, placing 15th for \$2,404. He would go on to earn 24 more MSPT Main Event cashes giving him the key 25 total (4th all-time), trailing only the other three prior HOF inductees—Aaron Johnson (35), Kou Vang (32) and Rich Alsup (27). Hodge has multiple cashes in every season since Season 5.

Hodge has 5 Main Event final table appearances (7th, 10th, 4th, 6th, 4th) and \$159,832 in MSPT earnings. His best season came in 2015's Season 6 where he tallied 8 Main Event cashes, a feat that has only occurred 4 times in MSPT history. Hodge appeared at 3 final tables (2nd all-time in a season) that same year. He would go on to become the Season 6 MSPT Player of the Year.

Hodge also has 3 MSPT Regional Cashes to his name, including a 3rd place finish at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

In addition to his MSPT success, Hodge recently placed 2nd in the CardPlayer event at BestBet Jacksonville for \$54,000. He also cashed in the 2018 – \$10,000 WSOP Main Event.

Poker pro Kou Vang—who made headlines over the summer for inciting a rant from Phil Hellmuth during the WSOP Main Event—was the first player to be inducted in 2018, while Rich Alsup and Aaron Johnson followed him. 🎰





# WEEKLY GUARANTEED POKER TOURNAMENTS

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## MSPT GTO LIFE

## MSPT GTO LIFE NOVEMBER

BY BEN VALDER

The temperature has fallen just like the leaves on the trees. Pumpkin spice is seemingly everywhere, and your worst friends have already started playing non-stop Christmas music. But do not let this get you weary my friends, for this month we have 3 MSPT Main Event stops in amazing locations, giving us plenty to be thankful for heading into November!

We start things off with a fan favorite stop at Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel (Nov 1-3) in Tama, Iowa. Gambling-wise here you'll find the loosest slot machines in all of Iowa, with your choice of penny slots, a \$100 machine, and everything in between. You'll find nine kinds of table games, a huge poker room, excellent staff, and intense bingo action every day of the week.

With seafood & prime rib dinner buffets on deck for both MSPT starting flights, live music rocking at the lounge each night until 1:00AM, and Iowa's best spa, you'll find it hard to justify leaving the casino at all.

If you do decide to sneak away, my top recommendation is definitely the legendary Rube's Steaks. Founded in 1973 when Glen Rubenbauer "Rube" opened a tavern in tiny Montour, Iowa, his philosophy was to allow guests the experience of grilling generously-portioned, hand-cut premium steaks over an indoor, open-hearth grill.

This unique concept, combined with some of the very best corn fed beef in the country, has made Rube's a must stop for anyone visiting the Tama area.

Our next stop is the beautiful Potawatomi Hotel & Casino (Nov 14-17). As you walk onto the casino floor, you will be greeted with thousands of the hottest slots, table games, bingo, poker and off track betting, right in the heart of downtown Milwaukee.

Brand new to Poto this fall is the epic Topgolf® Swing Suite, offering playful competition (something for you to degen bet on) for you and your entire crew. Featuring massive screens with a variety of virtual golf and simulated multi-sport games, luxurious surroundings, plus dedicated food & beverage service, year-round indoor virtual golf is something I'm here for 100%.

Just blocks away you will find Sobelmans Pub and Grill—home to Milwaukee's very best burgers and perhaps this planet's greatest Bloody Marys! Sobelmans epic food, friendly service, and welcoming hometown atmosphere make it the perfect spot to cheer on (anti-sweat) the Packers, or just hang



out with friends (make bets with them against the Packers).

For our final MSPT location this month, we head to Golden Gates Casino (Nov 13-24) in the breathtaking city of Black Hawk, Colorado, a place that has gone out of its way to preserve its rich history while continuing to push forward to a bright future. The drive up the mountain is something that must be seen to fully appreciate, as no picture that can fit in a magazine could ever do it justice.

The state-of-the-art room at Golden Gates is Black Hawk's best poker parlour, with 22 action-filled tables for tournaments and a first-class poker setting. Nestled in the majestic Rocky Mountains, this is a can't miss event.

One place I love to stop in at every time I make it to Black Hawk is Dostal Alley. This place is cozy, full of crazy, personable folks, and home to some of the best tasting homemade pizza I've ever had. It's an excellent place to belly-up to the bar and make a few new friends - and if you're anything like this poker player you might just be saying "Ya Buddy!" all the way down the mountain.

That's a wrap for GTO Life November... good luck on the tables! 🍀

## Event Recap

# ERIC “basebaldy” BALDWIN WINS HIS FIRST MSPT TITLE AT THE VENETIAN LAS VEGAS FOR \$81K

BY MSPT STAFF

The MSPT rolled into The Venetian Las Vegas September 20-22 and after an incredible weekend, Professional Poker Player Eric Baldwin stood tall to claim MSPT Main Event 158!

In September 2018, it was 30-year old poker pro Sam Vizza, a Las Vegas grinder by way of Chicago, who emerged victorious after a five-way deal at the final table. That event attracted 315 runners.

The first two starting flights saw some incredible action, WSOP bracelet winner Jason Gooch of Vidor, TX led the way through Day 1A with 413,500 chips. Gooch had two prior MSPT cashes on his resume. Michael Ermie of Perrysburg, OH claimed the second most with 385,500. Ermie has quietly been a MSPT beast racking up thirteen MSPT main event cashes including a 3rd place finish at FireKeepers Casino in 2015 for \$48,666. Other notables to survive Day 1A were CEO of CardPlayer Magazine Barry Shulman (205,000) and Katie Lindsay (92,000). 16 of 149 entrants from 1A advanced to Sunday's Day 2.

Day 1B collected another 228 runners bringing the total to 377, up from 315 the year prior. Harold Rosenthal of Las Vegas amassed 354,000 chips to lead the way. Other notables who bagged included Eric “basebaldy” Baldwin (241,000) who final tabled this event in 2018, finishing 8th for \$8,292, Minnesota's Vic Peppe (201,000), past MSPT Champ Brian Hou (200,000), Stan Jablonski (139,000) and 2013 MSPT Player of the Year Pat Steele (136,000). 31 of 228 from 1B moved on.

46 of 377 would come back on Sunday with 45 slated to get paid. Players who came up short of making the final table but scored a cash included Patrick Steele (44th - \$2,022), Bob Shao (39th - \$2,022), Vic Peppe (38th - \$2,022), Ben Palmer (33rd - \$2,205), Katie Lindsay (32nd - \$2,205), Brian Hou (26th - \$2,573), Ting Luo (24th - \$2,977), Jim Agate (18th - \$4,043), Justin Sharpe (14th - \$4,778), Stan Jablonski (12th - \$5,881) and Michael Ermie (11th - \$5,881).



Eric Baldwin

The final table got off to a slow start but eventually CardPlayer Magazine CEO and two-time WSOP bracelet winner Barry Shulman was taken out when the A♠10♥ of Smith Collins caught up to Shulman's A♥K♦ as the board ran out 10♦Q♥10♠Q♣3♣ sending the poker veteran to the payout window in 10th place (\$5,881). This was Shulman's first MSPT cash.

After having his stack run down, Nikhil Gera was the next to go as Mark Bloomberg took him out in 9th place (\$6,984) moving Bloomberg to just over 1.6 million. Then Gerald Cunniff started his comeback from just 70,000 chips to bounce Smith Collins in 8th place (\$9,557). Cunniff had reached the 1.4 million chip mark and with his rise saw Bloomberg's fall as Cunniff knocked him out in 7th place (\$12,130). For Minnesota's Bloomberg this was his 3rd MSPT Main Event cash and 1st final table.

Fernando Brito was another player who had battled his way back but ran into a red-hot Rudy Cadenas who hit a set of



# The Venetian Las Vegas

nines to knock him out in 6th place (\$15,438). Then Richard Schneiderman battled his way off a short stack to use a pair of kings to take out Cunniff in 5th place (\$20,217) who held [Kd10c]. This was Cunniff's 6th MSPT Main Event cash and 3rd final table.

Baldwin continued to stack chips and control the table, then took out Cadenas in 4th place (\$26,833). Cadenas pushed in his last 480,000 chips and was called by Baldwin. Cadenas turned over Q♣6♥ and Baldwin showed 8C8♦. The board ran out J♠6♣4♣9♥KS and Cadenas was eliminated.

Baldwin struck again by eliminating Gooch in 3rd place (\$36,390). Gooch shoved all-in from the small blind for his remaining 480,000, Eric Baldwin called and rolled over K♦Q♦, Gooch turned up J♦6♦. The board ran out 3♥10♦8♠3♦8♦ giving Baldwin the better flush for the win.

This set up a showdown with Schneiderman. Baldwin entered the heads-up match holding a 2-1 chip lead, though that lead did not last long. In a matter of minutes Schneiderman erased Baldwin's advantage and at one point had Baldwin down to 800,000 chips to his 6.75 million. Baldwin fought back to take a small lead once again.

Then it was fireworks. Richard Schneiderman raised to 250,000. Eric Baldwin didn't think long before moving all in, Schneiderman snap called and the cards were turned over.



## The Venetian Las Vegas

Buy-in: \$1,100 ♣ 377 Entrants

Place	Name	City, State	Prize
1	Eric Baldwin	Las Vegas, NV	\$80,872
2	Richard Schneiderman	London	\$49,990
3	Jason Gooch	Vidor, TX	\$36,390
4	Rudy Cadenas	Las Vegas, NV	\$26,833
5	Gerald Cunniff	St. Paul, MN	\$20,217
6	Fernando Brito	Brazil	\$15,438
7	Mark Bloomberg	Mound, MN	\$12,130
8	Smith Collins	Henderson, NV	\$9,557
9	Nikhil Gera	Los Angeles, CA	\$6,984
10	Barry Shulman	Las Vegas, NV	\$5,881

Baldwin: A♠KS♠

Schneiderman: A♥Q♠

The board ran out clean for Baldwin, A♠5♦3♦4♦10♥ and when the chips were counted, Baldwin barely had Schneiderman covered earning him the win and \$80,872! Schneiderman's runner-up finish pocketed him \$49,990. 🎰



Final Table



GUN LAKE CASINO™

# POKER TOURNAMENTS

## MONDAYS

7:00PM

\$25 Buy-In, \$20 Re-Buy  
No Limit Hold'Em

## TUESDAYS

7:00PM

\$50 Buy-In  
No Limit Hold'Em

## THURSDAYS

7:00PM

\$80 Buy-In  
No Limit Hold'Em

## SATURDAYS

11:00AM

\$75 plus \$25 Bounty  
No Limit Hold'Em Bounty

## SUNDAYS

1:00PM

\$50 Buy-In

No Limit Hold'Em Tournament

(\*Will not be held the 2nd Sunday of the month)

### \*2ND SUNDAY

12:00PM

\$240 plus \$100 Bounty  
No Limit Hold'Em Bounty



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POKER COACHING.com

*Strategy presented by Jonathan Little*

# DON'T PLAY STRONG HANDS FOR ALL YOUR MONEY EVERY TIME

BY MSPT STAFF

**T**he Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) Grand Falls Casino \$1,100 Main Event just outside Sioux Falls, South Dakota drew 175 runners over two starting flights. Late on Day 1b flight, a big hand went down that determined the end-of-the-night chip leader.

The hand took place with just two eight-handed final tables remaining in the flight in Level 14 (1,500/3,000/3,000). It began when Eric Atchison (258,000) opened for 8,000 from the hijack and John Dennehey (233,000) three-bet to 24,000 from the button. Both blinds folded and Atchison pushed back with a four-bet to 70,000. Dennehey responded with a five-bet shove for 233,000, Atchison called, and the hands were turned up.

Dennehey: A♣A♥

Atchison: Q♣Q♠

The board ran out 7♥K♠4♣K♦8♦ and Dennehey doubled into the chip lead with the 473,500 pot while Atchison was left with just 25,000 in chips. Dennehey would go on to finish third in the tournament for \$20,190.

We consulted Jonathan Little of PokerCoaching.com about the hand.

**What do you make of Dennehey's three-bet sizing in position with aces? Any argument to be made that he could've went smaller?**

**Little:** I think the three-bet size is perfectly fine, given the deep stacks. If stacks were shallower, three-betting to a smaller size would become a better play. While I understand that it is not fun to three-bet using a "normal" size only to have your opponent fold, if you plan to three-bet with more than just the nuts, you should aim to have at least some balance in your strategy, meaning playing your best hands as you would play your worst hands, forcing your opponents into a guessing game.

**Given the stack depths do you like Atchison's four-bet to 70,000 or would you have rather seen him do something different like just call?**

**Little:** I much prefer a call, especially since they had two of the largest stacks. When you have a large stack and are facing

another large stack late in a tournament, unless you have an incredibly aggressive dynamic such that you are consistently blasting large amounts of chips into the pot with wide ranges, you should strive to ensure you only play gigantic pots with a substantial advantage. While queens is certainly a strong hand, it is not so great once it becomes clear the opponent is trying to get loads of chips into the pot.

**Dennehey's five-bet jam seems super strong.**

**He's an older player, and they tend to be more on the tight side. How do you feel about Atchison making the call? Could he have laid it down?**

**Little:** Once you four-bet to 33% of your chips, the plan cannot be to fold to the all-in unless you are somehow now convinced that Dennehey's range is exactly aces or kings.

**Any general words of advice for players who have difficulty playing pocket queens?**

**Little:** Realize that you don't have to blindly blast your stack in every time you get QQ, AK, or any other strong, but non-nut hand. Many players view this hand as a standard set up, but I view it as QQ being drastically overplayed. Instead of getting all-in, Atchison should have called the three-bet, check/called the flop, probably check/called or check/folded the turn, and then certainly check/folded the river, assuming he even faced three bets. You don't have to play every seemingly strong hand for all your money every time.

*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).*



John Dennehey

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# PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Season 10 Standings as of October 9

Rank	Player Name	Points
1	Mike Shin	4,550
2	Adam Friedman	3,500
3	Brian Wilson	3,250
4	Matt Kirby	3,125
5	Eric Baldwin	2,700
	Brian Hou	2,700
7	DJ Buckley	2,417
8	Daniel Bekavac	2,300
9	Rudy Sawa	2,200
10	Jeremy Brown	2,100
	Andy Tran	2,100
12	Hao "John" Sun	2,050
	Chris Moon	2,050
14	Mazen Abdallah	2,000
	Linglin Zeng	2,000
16	Jon Hanner	1,900
17	Sheddy Siddiqui	1,850
18	Scott Vetter	1,800
	Sean Munjal	1,800
	Alessio Sabatini	1,800
	Sean Davidson	1,800
22	Kou Vang	1,700
	Jeffrey Hill	1,700
	Edward Mogilnicki	1,700
	Pedro Mendes	1,700
	Michael Shelton	1,700
27	Tom Stambaugh	1,633



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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## MSPT EARNINGS

Leaders as of October 9, 2019

Rank	Player Name	Amount
1	Pavel Plesuv	\$681,212
2	Richard Alsup	\$680,156
3	Michael Soyza	\$592,137
4	David Levine	\$495,500
5	Blake Bohn	\$492,243
6	Mike Shin	\$462,697
7	Thomas Boivin	\$461,505
8	Mazen Abdallah	\$445,000
9	Felipe Davila	\$427,942
10	Kou Vang	\$406,099
11	Nadar Kakhmazov	\$395,888
12	Linglin Zeng	\$393,506
13	Yat Cheng	\$392,806
14	Andrew Rubinberg	\$386,537
15	Jeremy Saderne	\$373,410
16	Carl Carodenuto	\$358,241
17	Alessio Sabatini	\$356,000
18	Chris Moon	\$349,415
19	Aaron Massey	\$349,028
20	Adam Friedman	\$343,780
21	Matt Kirby	\$342,619
22	Peixin Liu	\$318,857
23	Brayden Gazlay	\$316,782
24	Matthew Stammen	\$312,298
25	Mukul Pahuja	\$308,643
26	Sean Davidson	\$306,265
27	Rob WazWaz	\$303,248
28	Michael Shelton	\$302,020
29	Jason Zarlenga	\$298,379
30	James Romero	\$297,580
31	Sheddy Siddiqui	\$297,398
32	Hao "John" Sun	\$283,786
33	Aaron Johnson	\$282,544
34	Mike Shanahan	\$278,607
35	Jeremy Dresch	\$276,265
36	Chris Meyers	\$274,479
37	Lou Garza	\$269,639
38	Osama Aweida	\$242,330
39	Alex Foxen	\$239,000
40	Keith Heine	\$238,292
41	Angelina Rich	\$234,829
42	Greg Himmelbrand	\$234,062
43	Maury Solano	\$228,817
44	Richard Bai	\$226,044
45	Mark Brazis	\$221,323
46	Joni Jouhkimainen	\$221,304
47	Travis Lauson	\$220,117
48	Daniel Bekavac	\$218,366
49	Glen Nguyen	\$215,430
50	DJ Buckley	\$213,318



**Pavel Plesuv - Moldova, Prague**



**Rich Alsup - New Hope, MN**

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**MSPT**  
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# MSPT MAIN EVENT CASHES

Leaders as of October 9, 2019

Rank	Player Name	Cashes
1	Aaron Johnson	35
2	Kou Vang	32
3	Richard Alsup	27
4	Mark Hodge	25
5	Patrick Steele	24
	DJ Buckley	24
7	Blake Bohn	23
8	Jason Seitz	21
9	Rob WazWaz	20
10	Matt Kirby	19
	Matt Alexander	19
12	Dan DQ Hendrickson	18
	Phil Mader	18
	Nicholas Pupillo	18
15	Jeremy Dresch	17
	Josh Reichard	17
17	Mark Sandness	16
	Todd Melander	16
	Rodger Johnson	16
20	Everett Carlton	15
21	Joe Matheson	14
	Tom Hammers	14
	John Hayes	14
	Brian Zupancich	14
	Ben Keeline	14
	John Reading	14
	Keith Heine	14
	Mike Shin	14
29	Reg Powell	13
	Dennis Stevermer	13
	Adam Lamphere	13
	Adam Friedman	13
	Michael Ernie	13
34	Brett Reichard	12
	John Pierce	12
	Joseph Barnard	12
	Craig Trost	12
	Richard Syverud	12
	Chris Meyers	12
40	Sam DeSilva	11
	Judd Greenagel	11
	Jeff Petronack	11
	James Gibson	11
	Gennady Shimelfarb	11
	Jason Bender	11
	Steve Belland	11
	Andrew Rubinberg	11
	Michael Ross	11
	Loki Abboud	11
	Osama Aweida	11



**Aaron Johnson - Red Wing, MN**



**Kou Vang - Maplewood, MN**

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