



**2012 World Series of Poker Presented by Jack Link's Beef Jerky
Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Official Report
Event #4
Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split
Buy-In: \$1,500
Number of Entries: 622
Total Net Prize Pool: \$839,700
Number of Places Paid: 64
First Place Prize: \$201,559
May 29-31, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

Cory Zeidman Victorious in Champion-Stacked Stud/Eight Event

New York Sports Marketer Tops Chris Bjin in Heads-Up Showdown

Ex-NFL Star Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson Motivates Gold Bracelet Victor

One Year After Taking Sixth in this Same Event, Zeidman Returns -- and Triumphs

Ageless Wonder, UK's Chris Bjin, Cashes for 62nd Time in Career but Finishes Second

Former WSOP Gold Bracelet Winners Litter the Money List

Four Females Finish in Top 13, but Still No Victory – 223 Straight Male Winners in Open Events

Twice as Nice: Double Cash for Mike Sexton – a WSOP First

Four Gold Bracelets Won – 57 More at Stake!

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TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Motivation can come from many different sources, even from some people that might be surprising. Just ask Cory Zeidman, winner of the latest World Series of Poker gold bracelet event held in Las Vegas.

Zeidman was propelled to his biggest career victory by none other than former NFL star Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson, the flamboyant ex-Dallas Cowboy linebacker from the Tom Landry-era, who gave his friend several pep talks during the final day of what turned out to be Zeidman's greatest poker triumph.

During breaks in the tournament action, Zeidman used his cell phone to call his close friend, who has since become a highly sought-after motivational speaker. Henderson provided just the right mix of solace and guidance, giving Zeidman an extra boost of confidence that enabled him to overcome one of the most champion-heavy final days in recent WSOP memory.

Given his connections to star athletes like Henderson through his full-time work in sports marketing, it's no surprise that Zeidman shares a winner-take-all mentality. Take, for instance, his unusual pattern of results playing in World Series of Poker events over the years. When Zeidman cashes -- which has now occurred eight times with his most recent feat -- he tends to go very deep. Indeed, there are no min-cashes on Zeidman's tournament resume. He's no slacker. When he enters an event, Zeidman plays with a single purpose in mind -- *to win*.

"I would have been devastated if I would have come back this year and finished second," Zeidman stated in a startling interview, just moments after his victory. "I had to win this. I knew this gold bracelet was going to be mine."

Indeed, Zeidman's previous showings in WSOP events include placing 6th all the way to 39th (which occurred in the 2003 Main Event Championship). That's a pretty impressive record when one considers the mentality of many fellow non-pro players, which is to somehow get into the money above all else, giving up the chance of building enough chips to make a serious run at victory. It's like sacrificing one's own heart on some Mayan altar, trying to appease the sun gods, and Zeidman would have none of that.

Zeidman's tournament strategy, tenacity, and will to win -- whether it came from former footballer Henderson or some deeper hunger from within -- paid off royally in spades on Thursday night when he managed to out-duel a lion's den of final-day survivors en route to his first-ever WSOP title. Zeidman's jubilation came in the \$1,500 buy-in Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split event, which was worth \$201,559 in prize money. Given the strength of his competition, Zeidman could be doubly proud of his accomplishment.

Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split has become an event popular with many of the game's most accomplished tournament players. As proof, the list of in-the-money finishers in Event #4 reads like a virtual "Who's Who" in poker over the past 20 years. Names gracing the official results included multiple big names -- including Chris Bjin, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, Todd Brunson, Marsha Waggoner, Linda Johnson, Frank Kassela, Mike Sexton, David Singer, Jerrod Ankenman, and Frankie O'Dell. And that was just the list of uber-notables that cashed in the top 20. Then, there was Nadell, the other Mizrachi, Madsen, Shak, Bell, Appleman, Billirakis, Schneider, Shchmelev, Waxman, and Filippi, who populated the 21-64 range. You get the idea.

The runner-up was longtime tournament journeyman and two-time gold bracelet winner, Chris Bjin, from London -- who shows absolutely no signs of slowing down as an accomplished tournament player. Bjin may very well be playing the best poker of his life at the moment as he continues to defy conventional wisdom that seniors can no longer compete amongst the wave on former online wunderkinds. This marked Bjin's 62nd time to cash at the WSOP, which now ranks fifth all time.

The tournament included not only a relatively surprising finale, but a number of other dramatic storylines as well.

First and foremost, the longest drought for female gold bracelet winners has now hit the 223-event mark. That's right --- 223 tournaments have been played at the WSOP since a female scooped the final pot of an open tournament. This eclipses the seemingly endless string of events played between 1982 and 1996, which had zero female winners in open events over what amounted to a 14-year femme famine.

Vanessa Selbst remains as the last female to win an open event, which took place in the \$1,500 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha championship, held in 2008. With two more stag winners for Event #3 and Event #4 on this day, the longest void in WSOP history has now been surpassed -- a dubious milestone, indeed.

The other big development was Mike Sexton's double cashing in simultaneous poker events. While the WSOP is one of the few tournaments that allows for the possibility of participants playing in two events at the same time, few players have been able to manage even a minimal overlap, let alone three straight days in conflict. Sexton's cashing in two events simultaneously (Event #3 and Event #4) -- where all three playing days overlap -- is unprecedented.

Furthermore, Sexton has proven once again that he's among the very best at Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split. This was his 11th time to cash in this event since 1985, which is a phenomenal feat. In fact, he finished as the runner up in 2011, and then ended up as the 15th-place finisher this year. Oh, one more thing -- Sexton also won this event back in 1989.

But this was not a good day for females -- even though they took four of the top 13 money spots -- an unusually high number of any WSOP event. This was not a good day to be a longtime pro, with previous WSOP titles. This was not even a good day for Mike Sexton, who endured yet another painful disappointment by coming up just short of another victory.

The hour, the day, the night, and the tournament belonged to someone else -- Cory Zeidman, who hereby becomes the fourth player to win a gold bracelet at this year's WSOP.

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MEET NEW WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION – COREY ZEIDMAN

Name: Cory Zeidman

Birthplace: Bronx, New York (USA)

Childhood: Grew up on Long Island (New York)

Current Residence: Coral Springs, Florida (USA)

Age: 51

Marital Status: Single

Children: 2 (two daughters ages 21 and 16)

Profession: Sports Marketing Professional / Semi-Pro Poker Player

Number of WSOP Cashes: 8

Number of WSOP final table appearances: 4

Number of WSOP gold bracelet victory (with this tournament): 1

Best Previous WSOP finish: 5th in \$5,000 buy-in Seven-Card Stud World Championship in 2004

Total WSOP Earnings: \$328,864

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The cards are bigger than you. You're not bigger than the cards. The cards are the best player at the table. So, let them come to you and don't look to force the issue. Pick your spots."

-- Ex-Dallas Cowboys NFL star Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson, speaking to ultimate winner Cory Zeitman during breaks by cellphone during the latest WSOP gold bracelet event.

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WINNER QUOTES (POST-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW)

On finishing sixth last year in this event, and winning in 2012: I just kept saying, 'This is your bracelet, this is yours.' I really felt so strongly about winning this thing. It's weird. It's not that everyone thinks that they are going to win, but I really felt that strongly about it. This can't be right, because Chris (Bjorin) had me down a couple of times, where, he had the momentum, and there's, like, no way that's my bracelet.

On what he learned between 2011 and 2012 that made him win this time: I was the chip leader at last year's final table, and I am a very strong player. I'm very strong at the game. And I felt I didn't play my best. I did get cooled a few times. But you lose a couple hands no matter how many chips you have. And yes, it definitely helped me. I feel that I was that much more focused, because after last year finishing sixth as the chip leader, this year even second place, as good as second place is, would have been a major disappointment. I mean, it was just major determination. I'm very competitive and obviously you need help with the cards when you're playing against a guy like Chris (Bjorin). You're going to have to earn it.

More on his final opponent, Chris Bjorin, who was involved in a three-hour heads-up showdown: You know Chris doesn't budge. He's got great instincts. I can't tell you how many times before the turn, he laid down hands, you know, where so many guys would have just tried to bully me where I just happened to have huge hands. I'm just like 'wow.' These 62 cashes that Chris has, and his (two) bracelets, it's got to be a sixth sense as well involved because I was stealing a lot from him at times. I mean I was bullying my share. But he has great instincts. I knew he was a little bit tired and I felt that that gave me a little bit of an edge. It's a long haul. I can go for a long time if I got it. Chris is a great guy. Who's tougher than Chris? It doesn't come any tougher than that.

On making two straight final tables in this event: You know, how many opportunities do you get to win a bracelet? Final tables are tough. Making two final tables, two consecutive years was -- I felt the satisfaction. I felt that's an accomplishment, but if I don't finish first, it was almost like a disaster.

On his motivation to win: Actually, I started receiving phone calls. A good friend of mine who's trying to help me with the mental aspects is actually someone who's a pretty famous ex-football player, Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson. He gives motivational talks, and he stayed after me for three days. He helped me along the way. He just kept telling me: "The cards are bigger than you. You're not bigger than the cards. The cards are the best player at the table. So, let them come to you and don't look to force the issue. Pick your spots." When I would get myself down a little bit, he would say, "Come on, you've been there before. Just don't let up. You're an animal." In every different way he'd occasionally make me laugh. Great motivator, and a super individual. Him and I are pretty good friends. He was very helpful. I had a lot of people pulling for me that were also giving me ideas. I had about 30 motivational talks. It's so nice. And again, it's so satisfying for me, but when you have a lot of people pulling for you too. I have two daughters, and they watched it on the live stream. My youngest left me a message like an hour ago. She said, "Daddy, I'm still watching." That's what I call motivation.

On Seven-Card Stud and Eight-or-Better appealing more to older players than No-Limit Hold'em: It's such a thinking man's game. There are so many aspects of the game. It's not just your cards. It's the boards. It's just every motion people make. And the top players are key to everything that's going on. Just the way someone plays a hand, the card they hit, can you take advantage of it? It doesn't matter what you get, it's what they get. The game is very intricate. And people who play at the highest level realize that. I've played for many years. I've played against the best in the world. And I won the California State Seven-Card Stud championship already. This is my fourth stud final table. There is no one I feel that can outplay me in the game. So, I'm not the least bit intimidated.... We had an outstanding final table too. Like you said, the field is just stacked. That makes it another factor in feeling great about this win. Look at every great player, basically, was in this field.

On his future plans at this year's WSOP and in poker: I think I'm retiring from poker now (laughing). No seriously, I plan on winning the next event I play in, which I think is the Stud-Eight event championship.... I'm putting pressure on myself because, if I bow out early in that event, I will be very dissatisfied. It's weird, because I really was set on finishing first in this. Somehow, I want to finish first in the next event. It's weird how your mind works. I've got a good feeling about the rest of the series. I'm going to be playing in the 50K Poker Players Championship. I don't want this to be the only highlight. Good things happen in bunches.

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THE FINAL TABLE

The final table was comprised of the top eight finishers – including three former WSOP gold bracelet winners. The previous champions in the final playing session included Chris Bjorin, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, and Todd Brunson.

Final table players came from three nations – the United States (6 players), the U.K. (1 player), and Canada (1 player).

Final table participants ranged in age from 26 (youngest) to 65 (oldest).

The runner up was Chris Bjorin, from London, UK. This marked his second time to finish second in an event during the past two years. Bjorin holds two gold bracelets, won in 1997 and 2000.

Brandon Shack-Harris was the third-place finisher. He is a poker pro and cash game specialist from Chicago, IL.

Yarron Bendor, originally from Israel and now living in Scottsdale, AZ, finished fourth. He is a company CEO.

Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi took fifth place. He is a two-time gold bracelet winner with nearly \$5.3 million in WSOP career earnings. Mizrachi has enjoyed a stellar run at the WSOP during the last three years – with two firsts, one second, two fifths, one sixth and one eighth in his seven final table appearances. Towering above his career record was his victory in the \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship, in 2010.

Xuan Liu ended up in sixth place. She was the chip leader entering Day Three, which began with 23 players. Liu, from Toronto (Canada), hoped to break the female non-winning streak, but ran out of momentum about midway through the final table. She is a 26-year-old poker pro.

Todd Brunson, from Las Vegas, came in seventh place, his best showing in a gold bracelet event since 2005. Brunson, who won the Omaha High-Low Split event that year, now has 31 career WSOP cashes.

Bonnie Rossi was eighth. She is a retiree from Federal Way, WA. Rossi's last WSOP cash was seven years ago.

Final table play began at 7:00 pm and lasted until 3:30 am. The duration was about 8.5 hours.

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OTHER IN-THE-MONEY FINISHERS

The top 64 finishers collected prize money.

Tournament results are to be entered into all official records as an open event. Results are also to be included in the 2012 "WSOP Player of the Year" race.

Multiple former WSOP gold bracelet winners cashed in this event. Half the finishers in the top 20 were former champions -- including Chris Bjorin, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, Todd Brunson, Marsha Waggoner, Linda Johnson, Frank Kassela, Mike Sexton, David Singer, Jerrod Ankenman, and Frankie O'Dell.

Perhaps the most noteworthy in-the-money finish was Mike Sexton's deep run (15th place). He accomplished what is believed to be a first in poker history. He entered both tournaments, and not only cashed in both but also managed to finish in the top 16 for both tournaments. No other player has done this before in simultaneous events with a complete three-day overlap.

Poker Hall of Fame inductee (2011) Linda Johnson finished 13th.

Frank Kassela, the WSOP "Player of the Year" in 2010, finished 14th.

Walter Smiley, winner of a gold bracelet back in 1976, finished 39th.

Chris Bjorin's cash in this event now gives him 62 for his career, ranking fifth on the all-time list for WSOP events.

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ODDS AND ENDS

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #4, since it's the fourth gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three consecutive days and nights, starting on Tuesday at 5 pm and concluding very early Friday morning at 3:30 am.

The tournament attracted 622 entries. This number is up slightly over last year, when there were 606 entrants. The highest attendance ever for this tournament took place in 2010, with 644 entrants.

There were 33 female entrants, which represented 5.3 percent of the field.

The average age of all entrants was 44.5 years -- which skews about 10 years older than the average WSOP participant, so far. In fact, this median age is likely to be the highest in any open event at the WSOP in several years (many of the early WSOP events had age averages in this range, and sometimes higher).

The average age of players that cashed was 43.2 years -- slightly below the average age of entrants.

There were 18 different nations represented by players in the field. There were six nations represented by players that cashed.

The official WSOP gold bracelet ceremony takes place on the day following the winner's victory (or some hours later when the tournament end very late). The ceremony takes place inside Brasilia. The ceremony begins at the conclusion of the first break of the noon tournament. The ceremony usually starts around 2:20 pm. The national anthem of the winner's nation is played. The entire presentation is open to public and media. The public and members of the media are permitted to take photographs and video of the ceremony.

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EVENT HISTORY

Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split was the first split-pot game ever to be played at the WSOP, when it was first

introduced 33 years ago. In 1976, Doc Green became the first Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split World Champion. Interestingly, he won \$12,750 for first place that year, which is less than every player who made it to the final table this year.

Since 1976, the list of event winners reads like a "Who's Who" of poker. Past winners include – Johnny Moss, Doyle Brunson, Chip Reese, Mickey Appleman, Phil Ivey, John Juanda, Max Stern, Men "the Master" Nguyen, Mike Sexton, Artie Cobb, Vince Burgio, Cyndy Violette, Rich Korbin, Eli Elezra, and Jeffrey Lisandro.

In 1986, this game was inexplicably omitted from the WSOP schedule. After some protest by Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split enthusiasts, it was reinstated and has been included on the poker menu every year. Since 1995, every WSOP has included at least two Eight-or-Better events. This year's WSOP schedule includes two Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split tournaments – the \$10,000 buy-in World Championship and this \$1,500 buy-in event.

This event has been won by a player from Arizona during five of the last eight years. This year, Yarron Bendor, from Scottsdale, had a chance to make it six of eight years. But he ended up finishing fourth.

No player in WSOP history has ever won more than one gold bracelet in this game.

Chris Viox was last year's winner. He did not cash in this year's tournament.

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TOURNAMENT PLAY

The tournament officially began on Tuesday, May 29th, at 5 pm. The tournament officially ended on June 1st, at 3:30 am.

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2012 WSOP STATISTICS

Through the conclusion of this tournament, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:
United States (4): Chip Saechao, Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman

Through the conclusion of this tournament, the national origin (birthplace) of winners has been:
United States (3): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Zeidman
Thailand (1): Chip Saechao

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of winners has been:
Florida (2): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman
California (1): Chip Saechao
Nevada (1): Brent Hanks

Through the conclusion of this tournament, the breakdown of professional poker players to semi-pros and amateurs who won gold bracelets is as follows:

Professional Players (2): Brent Hanks, Leif Force

Semi-Pros (1): Cory Zeidman

Amateurs (1): Chip Saechao

The streak of male gold bracelet winners is currently at 223 consecutive events, and counting. Aside from the annual Ladies Poker Championship (a non-open event), the last female to win an open WSOP event was Vanessa Selbst, back in 2008. The longest cold streak for female players had previously been 221 consecutive open events, which took place between 1982 and 1996.

Note: Various categories and statistics will be updated with each gold bracelet event as they are completed.

-- by Nolan Dalla

Note: All results are now official and may be reprinted by media. If you are posting these results on a website, we would appreciate providing a link back to: WSOP.com. Thank you.

For official news and the latest updates from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: WSOP.com

For statistics and historical information from the 2012 World Series of Poker, contact Nolan Dalla at: nolandalla@aol.com

For official media photographs from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: www.pokernews.photoshelter.com

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