



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

**Official Report  
Event #9  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$1,500  
Number of Entries: 3,404  
Total Net Prize Pool: \$4,595,400  
Number of Places Paid: 342  
First Place Prize: \$781,398  
June 3-6, 2012**

## **TOURNAMENT HEADLINES**

Yes Ash Kan!

Ashkan Razavi Wins First WSOP Gold Bracelet and \$781,398

Canadian Poker Pro Wins Largest 1500-Level Event in Four Years – 3,404 Entrants

Philly Filly Amanda Musumeci Places Second – Female Gold-Bracelet Famine Hits 230

Double-Gold Bracelet Winner Brian Rast Finishes Sixth

Double-Gold Bracelet Winner Greg Mueller Finishes Seventh

2010 World Champion Jonathan Duhamel Finishes 21st

Nine Gold Bracelets Won – 52 More at Stake!

## **TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW**

Ashkan Razavi, a 30-year-old professional poker player from Maple Ridge, BC (Canada), won his first WSOP gold bracelet tonight at the Rio in Las Vegas. His moment of triumph came in the \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em title, for which he collected a whopping \$781,398 in prize money.

Razavi's victory was as challenging as it was well-deserved. He overcame the largest turnout for a \$1,500-level buy-in event at the WSOP in four years, outlasting a monster-sized field of 3,404 entries in what turned out to be a grueling four-day grind.

The ultimate payoff came on the last day, when Razavi defeated a formidable final-table lineup that included some seasoned veterans as well as hungry newcomers to the WSOP final table scene. One of the most notable of the nine finalists was Amanda Musumeci, who continues to solidify her reputation as one of tournament poker's brightest up-and-coming new stars.

Musumeci burst upon the scene in last year's WSOP Main Event Championship, when she finished 62nd. The Philadelphia poker pro then proved she was no flash-in-the-pan by cashing nine times on the WSOP Circuit during this

past season. She collected a memorable consolation prize at this final table: a runner-up finish and a payday amounting to \$481,643 in prize money in what many will consider to be another breakthrough advance for the young pro.

Other notable moments at the final table included dueling two-time gold bracelet winners, who came up far short of what would have been their WSOP-victory trifecta. Brian Rast (1,500 Pot-Limit Hold'em in 2011 / 50,000 Poker Players Championship in 2011) took sixth place. Greg Mueller (10,000 Limit Hold'em in 2009 / 1,500 Limit Hold'em Shootout in 2009) finished seventh.

Indeed, the day, the night, and ultimately the gold bracelet belonged to Razavi, an Iranian-born Canadian, who has been around the poker scene for several years and is linked to many of the game's best players. He dragged the final pot of the tournament when he made two-pair -- kings and tens – which turned out to be the richest pot of his poker life. That put his rail of followers into ecstasy, as his barrage of backers leapt onto the stage, most wearing t-shirts made especially for the occasion – which said “Ash Can Do It.”

Indeed, “Ash did it.” Razavi's victory gives him his first WSOP title, to go along with four cashes, and nearly \$900,000 in total career WSOP earnings. He also rockets onto the leaderboard as a serious candidate in the 2102 “WSOP Player of the Year” race.

## **MEET NEW WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION – ASHKAN RAZAVI**

Name: Ashkan Razavi

Birthplace: Tehran (Iran)

Age: 30

Childhood: Immigrated to Canada at age 13

Current Residence: Maple Ridge, BC (Canada)

Marital Status: Single (girlfriend)

Children: 1

Profession: Professional Poker Player

Previous Occupation: Poker Dealer

Number of WSOP Cashes: 4

Number of WSOP final-table appearances: 2

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

Best Previous WSOP finish: Fifth (1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha in 2010)

First-Place Prize Money: \$781,398

Total WSOP Earnings: \$846,733

## **WINNER QUOTES (POST-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW)**

*QUESTION: Let's talk about the T-shirts. Whose idea was it and how did that happen?*

RAZAVI: That was my friends Brian and Ken. They had this idea and they did it. Brian flew in last night; Ken was here, and they went somewhere to the remote outskirts of Vegas to find a place that prints t-shirts and they did it this morning at like 8 am, before the tournament started. Everybody wore them, and it was awesome.

*QUESTION: What did it mean to you when you hear them cheering? And can you comment on if you think poker is really a spectator sport? Does it really help you?*

RAZAVI: Yes, it boosted my confidence, definitely – to know that people support me, and I just feel a lot of love from my friends.

*QUESTION: You've been coming around here for a while. Seeing some of your friends win bracelets, does that create some pressure like it's about my time to do something?*

RAZAVI: I've always been pretty confident myself that my time will come. I never put an extra pressure on myself to win a bracelet. I just like doing well in events. The bracelet is obviously nice, but it's not really my number one goal. I just want to do well to go deep in events. I am lucky to be the winner of the bracelet that's definitely an extra added bonus.

*QUESTION: This is one of the biggest prizes of the summer. How nice does it feel to break through in this specific event?*

RAZAVI: It's amazing with such a large field and being a \$1,500 event – there are more mine fields to dodge to get to this place. Also, being in the final 30 was unbelievable – especially for a \$1,500 hundred event. The field was really tough – there were a lot of good players, a lot of known pros. They were amazing. I feel very fortunate to have been able to go through the whole field. It's amazing.

*QUESTION: What's something you intend to buy with the prize money?*

RAZAVI: Me and my girlfriend just had a baby and we are desperately in need of a mini-van. With kids, we have to get a mini-van as soon as we get home.

*QUESTION: Tell us about your life before you took poker seriously.*

RAZAVI: I was born in Tehran (Iran). Me and my mom and my brother moved to Canada actually, when I was about 13-years-old. I finished high school. Then, I went to school and finished my school, got my degree and ended up getting a temporary job in a casino as a dealer because I had a connection there. One thing led to another. I was playing poker on the side and making more money than I could get as entry-level job in, like, computer programming. So, I just stuck to it and it's been about six years now.

*QUESTION: What about future goals and poker?*

RAZAVI: To me it's a job. It's all about the money. It's my family's well-being and financial security. That's what motivates me.

## **THE FINAL TABLE**

The final table was comprised of the top nine finishers.

Two former gold bracelet winners were present at the final table. Both were two-time champions. They were Brian Rast and Greg Mueller.

Brian Rast (1,500 Pot-Limit Hold'em in 2011 / 50,000 Poker Players Championship in 2011) took sixth place. Greg Mueller (10,000 Limit Hold'em in 2009 / 1,500 Limit Hold'em Shootout in 2009) finished seventh.

The runner-up was Amanda Musumeci, from Philadelphia, PA. She burst upon the poker scene at last year's WSOP, where she finished 62<sup>nd</sup> in the Main Event Championship. Musumeci followed that up with a strong season on the WSOP Circuit, where she cashed 9 times. Musumeci collected \$481,643 as a consolation prize. However, her legacy from this high finish is likely to be unofficial coronation as arguably the WSOP's top female No-Limit Hold'em tournament player at the moment.

Final table players came from two nations – the United States (with 7 players) and Canada (2 players).

Final table participants ranged in age from 22 to 38.

Final table play began at 1 p.m. and lasted until 7 p.m. The duration was about six hours.

## **OTHER IN-THE-MONEY FINISHERS**

The top 342 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 Event #9. The most notable was Jonathan Duhamel (2010 world poker champion), who finished 21<sup>st</sup>.

Five-time gold bracelet winner John Juanda cashed – which puts him at 60 total WSOP in-the-money finishes. This ranks in the top 10 all-time.

2008 world poker champion Jerry Yang cashed in 153<sup>rd</sup> place. This was his fifth cash at the WSOP since his historic win four years ago.

Barry Shulman cashed. The Card Player magazine owner and two-time gold bracelet winner won the Main Event Championship at 2009 WSOP Europe.

Men “the Master” Nguyen cashed. He now has 74 in-the-money finishes at the WSOP, which ranks second all-time. This was his third cash in 2012.

2011 WSOP Circuit National Champion Sam Barnhart cashed. He also took 17<sup>th</sup> in last year’s WSOP Main Event Championship.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #9, since it’s the ninth gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over five consecutive days and nights, starting on Saturday at noon and concluding Wednesday night at 7:15 p.m.

There were 135 female entrants, which represented 4 percent of the field.

The average age of all entrants was 35 years –which is about the average WSOP participant age, so far.

There were 45 different nations represented by players in the field.

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 p.m. The national anthem of the winner’s nation is played. The entire presentation is open to public and media. Video and photography is permitted by both public and members of the media.

## **2012 WSOP STATISTICS**

Through the conclusion of Event #10, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (7): Chip Saechao, Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette

France (1): Aubin Cazals

Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov

Canada (1): Ashkan Razavi

Through the conclusion of this tournament, the national origin (birthplace) of winners has been:

United States (6): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette

Thailand (1): Chip Saechao

Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov

France (1): Aubin Cazals

Iran (1): Ashkan Razavi

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of (American) winners has been:

Nevada (2): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch

Florida (2): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman

California (2): Chip Saechao, John Monnette

Illinois (1): Nick Jivkov

Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

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 (6): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Andy Bloch, Aubin Cazals, John Monnette, Ashkan Razavi

Semi-Pros (2): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov

Amateurs (2): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott

The streak of consecutive male gold bracelet winners (or put another way – no female winner) is currently at 230 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](http://WSOP.com). Thank you.*

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*For official news and the latest updates from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com)*

*For statistics and historical information from the 2012 World Series of Poker, contact Nolan Dalla at: [nolandalla@aol.com](mailto:nolandalla@aol.com)*

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