



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

**Official Report
Event #32
H.O.R.S.E.
Buy-In: \$10,000
Number of Entries: 178
Total Net Prize Pool: \$1,673,200
Number of Places Paid: 24
First Place Prize: \$451,779
June 16-19, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

David "Bakes" Baker Wins Second WSOP Gold Bracelet

Mega-Stacked Final Table Includes Six Former Gold Bracelet Winners – With 25 Combined Victories

Phil Ivey Makes Fourth Final Table Appearance in 2012

Phil Hellmuth Misses Chance for Gold Bracelet Number 13 – Finishes Fourth

25 of 32 Gold Bracelets Won By Americans – To Date

2012 WSOP Crosses Midway Point: 32 Gold Bracelets Won – 29 More at Stake!

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

David "Bakes" Baker Wins \$10,000 Buy-In H.O.R.S.E. Tournament (Event #32)

Popular Poker Pro Baker Gets His Just Desserts -- and Second WSOP Gold Bracelet

Baker Just "One of the Same Five/Six Guys"

Everyone who watched the poker movie "Rounders" remembers the classic line delivered by Mike McDermott, played by Matt Damon.

"I mean, why do you think the same five guys make it to the final table of the World Series of Poker every year?"

At the time, hard-core poker fanatics reacted to the line with a mixture of reverence and ridicule. In fact, the "same five guys" do not "make it the final table every year." As evidence, all one must do is look at just about any final table in any event played at the WSOP and you will see plenty of new faces and unfamiliar names. You will not see the same five guys.*

Oh wait. Scratch that. Never mind.

Let's leave out the latest WSOP final table played tonight, at the Rio in Las Vegas.

Damon's character must have been talking about the \$10,000 buy-in H.O.R.S.E. championship, which was Event #32. Indeed, this final table was a virtual "Who's Who" of poker, a celebrity-studded clash of theatrics, and a reminder that the very best players in the world always seem to shine the brightest at the WSOP.

Consider the lineup of final table players – six former gold bracelet winners, with a combined 25 WSOP titles between them, making it the second-most stacked final table in history. Only the inaugural \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship played back in 2006 started with a finale full of more glittering gold bracelet victories amongst its finalists. That finale included a combined 27 wins.

Alas, just as Damon said -- the same five (make that six) guys did end up making the final table this time.

Most notably was Phil Ivey, who rolled into his fourth finale at this year's series – an astounding accomplishment given the big field sizes and highly-competitive nature of the higher buy-in events he usually plays.

Another player who made it yet again was Phil Hellmuth, fresh off his 12th gold bracelet victory, which took place in the Razz tournament, completed just five days ago. Remarkably, this was Hellmuth's sixth time at a final table within the past two years. It's no surprise that Hellmuth continues to distance himself from mere mortals as the all-time WSOP leader in final table appearances, currently at 46 (and counting).

If you're still not convinced Damon was on to something, then there's John Monnette, a name that is becoming increasingly familiar to those who follow WSOP action. Just two weeks ago, Monnette won Event #10 – good for his second win in two years. This marked his third final table appearance in 2012, which ranks second only to Ivey.

Dan Kelly has been here before, as well. Three final tables, plus a WSOP victory in 2010. Then, there's Abe Mosseri, who's sat quite comfortably at five final tables, including this one. He won his gold bracelet in 2009.

Finally, there was David "Bakes" Baker -- making his fifth career WSOP final table appearance. His gold bracelet victory came in 2010.

As one of the six guys who make it to the WSOP final table every year, Baker made the most of this opportunity. He deliberately and methodically outmaneuvered and ultimately outlasted players who most observers consider the very best in the world at their respective games -- for instance, Hellmuth in Hold'em, Monnette in Stud, and Ivey in well, just about everything.

Baker collected \$451,779 in prize money for first place, which places him close to \$1.5 million in career earnings. He also collected gold bracelet number two, following a win two years ago in the \$10,000 buy-in Deuce-to-Seven Lowball World Championship.

So in the end, maybe Damon was right. Only he should have said "the same six guys," instead of five.

*You may also see a woman, something Damon's character completely overlooked.

Las Vegas, NV (June 18, 2012) -- David Baker was the winner of the \$10,000 buy-in H.O.R.S.E. championship (Event #32). He topped one of the toughest and most experienced fields ever assembled for any WSOP event. Six of the nine final table players were former gold bracelet winners.

Baker is a 25-year-old professional poker player from Las Vegas, NV. He enjoyed a breakthrough year in 2010, when he final tabled the \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship, finishing sixth. Baker followed up that performance with a win in the \$10,000 buy-in Deuce-to-Seven Lowball event – good for his first gold bracelet.

Baker is a dedicated poker pro who started playing seriously while in college. He gradually improved to the point he was making a living at the game, mostly toiling away in online poker games. Baker now plays in some of the biggest and toughest cash games in the world.

This marked his second WSOP gold bracelet victory.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – DAVID “BAKES” BAKER

Note: Baker uses “Bakes,” in part to differentiate himself from another notable poker pro with the same name. In most of his official records, he is listed as DAVID BAKES BAKER.

The \$10,000 buy-in H.O.R.S.E. champion (Event #32) is David “Bakes” Baker, from Las Vegas, NV.

Baker is 25-years-old.

Baker was born in Charlotte, NC. But he grew up in Bloomfield Hills, MI which is a suburb of Detroit.

Baker started out competing in play money games online, where he learned how to play.

Baker attended Michigan State University for two years.

Baker played poker part-time, mostly online while attending college. He eventually decided to attend a technical institute in Miami, FL, where he transferred for one year.

While living in Florida, Baker continued to play poker. He enjoyed his first major score in poker when he won \$30,000 in 2006.

He invested more time and energy in improving his game and has been playing professionally ever since. Baker credits former WSOP gold bracelet winner Vanessa Selbst with coaching him and helping to improve his game.

Baker is dating "Poker Queen" Maria Mayrinck, from Brazil. She was in the crowd to cheer him to victory at the final table.

According to official records, David Baker now has two wins, seven final table appearances, and 16 in-the-money finishes at the WSOP.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

Question: *So, the 2010 bracelet versus this 2012 bracelet. Which one is better?*

Baker: This one for sure. The first one was nice, but it was only a one hundred person tourney, it was in a game that I have practiced but people don't play as much. It didn't have as much prestige as this one. This one there were a lot of very good players at the final table that were on top of their game. This one feels like more of an accomplishment. Obviously the first time, you can never get over that. But, this one feels really good and probably a little bit better now that I'm a little more seasoned.

Question: *There were 25 gold bracelet wins combined at this final table, which was the second most in history. Is there more pressure in this type of environment?*

Baker: Yeah there's definitely more pressure. The stage is packed, everyone is watching, and the two most famous players in the game are right there. So yeah, the spotlight is on and you don't want to make a bad play, you don't want to make a mistake, and the money adds to the pressure. Definitely a higher standard of play was required this time.

Question: *Are you taking a day off to celebrate?*

Baker: No, I don't think so. I mean, the only thing that might make me not play tomorrow is that there is only one hour of late registration. If there was four hours, I'd be in there for sure. It's the WSOP, you can do well here and not have to work for the rest of the year. So, I got to keep going and I'm still not out of player of the year and that's something I would like to do.

Question: *Do you take pride in being good at games outside of No-Limit?*

Baker: I don't know if I take pride, but I definitely enjoy it. When I started playing these games, No-Limit was getting really stale for me and I didn't want to play it. Playing a bunch of different games keeps me fresh and keeps me interested in the game of poker. I'm happy that I was able to get to a high level at these games, but it was the same process that got me decent at No-Limit Hold'em. So, I just have a lot of fun with it playing the different games and I'm happy that the practice has paid off.

Question: *What's tougher? The play at this final table or the big cash game in Ivey's Room (at Aria Poker Room)?*

Baker: They're a lot different. Sometimes, I wish we play straight HORSE in there but we play so much draw in that mix that it's not even comparable. We play Omaha/Eight and we play Stud/Eight and sometimes Hold'em. It's a much different mix. But, John (Monnette) was tough in that mix and he was tough in HORSE too, so at least that part was consistent.

Question: *Could you tell us about the support you had on the rail tonight?*

Baker: Oh sure, my mom was here, she flew in. She didn't even tell me she was coming and she was here for my rail. My girlfriend was here. I had all of my friends. Everyone was shouting, and I'm very thankful for everyone that came out and supported me.

Question: *How about the Brazilian rail?*

Baker: Yeah, the Brazilian rail was amazing. The Brazilians multiply. You let one on your rail, and you get thirty. That's exactly how I want it. And when they talk it's like thirty sounds like three hundred, its perfect.

Question: *Talk about HORSE and make a pitch that supports HORSE being the best overall test for the best all around*

player.

Baker: I think the game is really a good test of the best all around player. But I think that Draw has gotten so big that you can't just have a HORSE tourney anymore and have like an all around player. If there's no Draw in the mix, then it's just played so widely now that if a player isn't good at Draw then I don't know if they can be one of the best overall players. John is amazing at Draw. HORSE is definitely a good test, but I think that the 50K might be a better test.

ODDS AND ENDS

This was classified as WSOP Event #32, since it's the 32nd gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over four days, starting on Saturday at 5 p.m. and concluded on Tuesday morning at 12:45 a.m.

The total duration of the final table was about nine hours.

The final table was the second-most stacked final table with former gold bracelet winners, measured by total wins at time of play. This finale included players with a combined 25 gold bracelets won – Phil Hellmuth (12), Phil Ivey (8), John Monnette (2), Abe Mosseri (1), Dan Kelly (1), and David “Bakes” Baker (1).

The ninth-place finisher was Mori Eskandani – best known as the owner and producer of ESPN's WSOP telecast the past two years. He owns Poker Productions, which is responsible for the main stage setup that features many WSOP final tables.

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 #32, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (25): Chip Saechao, Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette, Brian Hastings, David “Doc” Arsht, Brandon Schaefer, Adam Friedman, Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger, Phil Hellmuth, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Brian Meinders, Gabe Scott, Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David “Bakes” Baker
Canada (3): Ashkan Razavi, Simon Charette, Timothy Adams
France (1): Aubin Cazals
Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov
The Netherlands (1): Vincent van der Fluit
Belgium (1): Michael Gathy

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

United States (24): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette, Brian Hastings, David “Doc” Arsht, Brandon Schaefer, Adam Friedman, Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger, Phil Hellmuth, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Brian Meinders, Gabe Scott, Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David “Bakes” Baker
Canada (2): Simon Charette, Timothy Adams
Thailand (1): Chip Saechao
Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov
France (1): Aubin Cazals
Iran (1): Ashkan Razavi
The Netherlands (1): Vincent van der Fluit
Belgium (1): Michael Gathy

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 25 American winners has been:

Nevada (6): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David “Bakes” Baker
California (3): Chip Saechao, John Monnette, Phil Hellmuth
Pennsylvania (3): Brian Hastings, David “Doc” Arsht, Ben Scholl
Florida (2): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman
New York (2): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger
Texas (2): Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright
Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

Ohio (1): Adam Friedman
Washington (1): Brandon Schaefer
Maryland (1): Cliff Goldkind
New Jersey (1): Brian Meinders
Oklahoma (1): Gabe Scott

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 (23): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Andy Bloch, Aubin Cazals, John Monnette, Ashkan Razavi, Vincent van der Fluit, Brian Hastings, Brandon Schaefer, Adam Friedman, Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger, Phil Hellmuth, Randy Ohel, Michael Gathy, Simon Charette, Joe Cassidy, Gabe Scott, Ylon Schwartz, Timothy Adams, Larry Wright, Carter Phillips, David "Bakes" Baker

Semi-Pros (4): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov, Brian Meinders, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman

Amateurs (5): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott, David "Doc" Arsht, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl

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

For official spectator photographs from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: www.imagemasterspoker.com

For specific media photo requests, email dcurley@hillmanpr.com and list "Urgent Media Request" as the subject line.

Note: All photos must be credited as follows: Photographer's Name/WSOP

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BONUS: DAVID "BAKES" BAKER OFFICIAL REPORT FROM FIRST GOLD BRACELET VICTORY (2010)

David Baker Wins First WSOP Gold Bracelet

23-Year-Old Poker Pro Collects \$249,321 in Prize Money

No-Limit Deuce-to-Seven Draw Lowball Championship Attracts Record Field Size

Third WSOP Final Table This Year for John Juanda – Finishes Fourth

OVERVIEW

David Baker was the winner of the \$10,000 buy-in No-Limit Deuce-to-Seven Draw Lowball championship at this year's World Series of Poker. He topped one of the toughest and most experienced fields ever assembled for any WSOP event. About half of the entrants were former WSOP gold bracelet winners. Baker is a 23-year-old professional poker player from Bloomfield Hills, MI.

He is enjoying a breakthrough year here at the WSOP, having previously final tabled the \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship, where he finished sixth. Baker is a dedicated poker pro who started playing seriously while in college. He gradually improved to the point he was making a living at the game, mostly toiling away in online poker games. Baker collected \$294,321 in prize money for his first WSOP victory. But winning the gold bracelet seemed to have more meaning.

"Now, when I say I'm a professional poker player, it has real meaning," Baker said. "The WSOP gold bracelet gives real meaning to claiming you are a poker pro." The \$10K Lowball Deuce tournament, one of the longest-running WSOP events (dating all the way back to 1973), crossed the 100-player mark for the first time.

There were 101 players who entered the three-day competition. The top 14 finishers collected prize money. The star-studded competition attracted a swarm of former WSOP champions.

Gold bracelet winners who cashed in this event included Erik Seidel, John Juanda, Daniel Negreanu, Eric Kesselman, and Yan Chen.

It should be noted that Yan Chen has now cashed in the last three Lowball Deuce events. He won his first gold bracelet last week in Event #14. John Juanda became only the second player at this year's WSOP to make three final table appearances. Vladimir Shchemelev, from St. Petersburg, Russia was the first.

THE CHAMPION – DAVID BAKER

The \$10,000 buy-in No-Limit Deuce-to-Seven Draw Lowball champion (Event #19) is David Baker from Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Baker is 23-years-old.

Baker was born in Charlotte, NC. But he grew up in Bloomfield Hills, MI which is a suburb of Detroit.

Baker started out competing in play money games online, where he learned how to play.

Baker attended Michigan State University for two years.

Baker played poker part-time, mostly online while attending college. He eventually decided to attend a technical institute in Miami, FL, where he transferred for one year.

While living in Florida, Baker continued to play poker. He enjoyed his first major score in poker when he won \$30,000 in 2006. He invested more time and energy in improving his game and has been playing professionally ever since.

Baker credits former WSOP gold bracelet winner Vanessa Selbst with coaching him and helping to improve his game. Baker says he has only been playing Deuce-to-Seven Lowball for about four months. He notes that few people play that game and have much experience playing in a daily basis, which tends to neutralize his lack of tournament experience in the game. In short, Baker may not have much experience playing the game, but neither do most of the players who enter (with some notable exceptions).

Baker is dating "Poker Queen" Maria Mayrinck, from Brazil. She was in the crowd to cheer him to victory at the final table. Baker collected \$294,321 for first place.

According to official records, David Baker now has one win, five final table appearances, and 21 in-the-money finishes at the WSOP. Baker is enjoying a breakthrough year at the WSOP, having previously final tabled the \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship, where he finished sixth. He is now very much alive in the 2010 "Player of the Year" race.

WINNER QUOTES

On what winning his first WSOP gold bracelet means: "This is the ultimate poker achievement. It's a great feeling. There is not really anything better than this, except multiple gold bracelets. No one can now say, 'Well, what have you won' anymore."

On his affiliation with other poker pros, including Vanessa Selbst and a large cheering section: "We all met online. We all play online poker together. When it came time to go to the WSOP, we met up and then put faces to our screen names. It's awesome. I love the World Series. You get to come and chill with 300 of your best friends." On coming out on top of a star-studded tournament lineup, including four former WSOP gold bracelet winners at the final table: "It makes me feel really good that I could do this. I never thought I would be playing against them. But it was really special."

On how a non-WSOP gold bracelet winner (in general) is perceived at the poker table here at the World Series: "I think most people just assume you are clueless, until you prove otherwise."

On winning a tournament that is not played widely by the poker public: "The thing about this game is, no one plays a lot of it. Even the people who have the most experience have played relatively very few hands. They have played perhaps 1/100th of the hands a Hold'em specialist might have played. ... The No-Limit Hold'em stud does not really translate to what you do in this game, but the tournament concepts are pretty much the same about stack sizes, reading opponents, and things like that."

On how he would describe Deuce Lowball: "It's a two-street game with very little information compared to the other games. The key to this game is getting a solid read on your opponents."

On dating a fellow poker pro (Maria Myrinck): “We have many things in common. We play the same tournaments. My life is poker and when I discovered the game I kind of knew this is what I wanted to do. To have a partner who does the same thing keeps things interesting all the time.” On how the victory changes things: “Now, when I say I’m a professional poker player, it has real meaning. The WSOP gold bracelet gives real meaning to claiming you are a poker pro.”

THE FINAL TABLE

The final table consisted of four former WSOP gold bracelet winners, including John Juanda, Erik Seidel, Eric Kesselman. Three nations were represented at the final table – Canada, Germany, and the United States.

The final table began seven-handed.

The runner up was Eric Cloutier. He is a former professional hockey player. He played a short time for the Boston Bruins. Cloutier now owns a sports bar in Lafayette, LA. He plays Baker is enjoying a breakthrough year at the WSOP, having previously final tabled the \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship, where he finished sixth. He is now very much alive in the 2010 “Player of the Year” race.

The third-place finisher was George Danzer, from Munich, Germany. He cashed for the first time at the WSOP in this tournament, which paid \$115,295.

The fourth-place finisher was four-time WSOP gold bracelet winner John Juanda, from Las Vegas, NV. He is the 2008 WSOP Europe Main Event champion. Juanda padded his poker bankroll with \$78,088.

With his fourth-place finish in this tournament, John Juanda became the second player at this year’s WSOP to make it to three final tables. He now has one 5th and two 4th-place finishes. The other player to accomplish this was Vladimir Shchemelev, from St. Petersburg, Russia. The fifth-place finisher was Doug Booth, from Bowling Green, KY. This marked his seventh occasion to cash at the WSOP. Fifth place paid \$55,482.

The sixth-place finisher was Erik Seidel, an eight-time WSOP gold bracelet winner. He received \$41,270 in prize money.

The seventh-place finisher was former gold bracelet winner Eric Kesselman, from New York, NY. He has now cashed five consecutive years at the WSOP. Kesselman collected \$32,080. The final table officially began at 5:30 pm and ended at 2:00 am. The final table clocked in at 8 hours, 30 minutes.

OTHER IN-THE-MONEY FINISHERS

The top 14 finishers collected prize money. Aside from the final table, former WSOP gold bracelet finishers who cashed in this event included – Daniel Negreanu (8th place) and Yan Chen (12th).

Yan Chen has now cashed in the last three Lowball Deuce events held at the WSOP. He won his first gold bracelet last week in Event #14, which was a Lowball Deuce event. With his fourth-place finish in this event, John Juanda now has 53 career cashes at the WSOP. This places him into an eighth-place tie with Chau Giang on the all-time cashes list.

With his sixth-place finish in this event, Erik Seidel now has 59 career cashes at the WSOP. This pushes him one spot ahead of Berry Johnson. Seidel is now alone in fourth place on the all-time cashes list, behind Phil Hellmuth, Men “the Master” Nguyen, and Chris “Jesus” Ferguson. With his cash in this event, Erik Seidel has now finished in-the-money at least once at the WSOP for 20 consecutive years.

With his eighth-place finish in this event, Daniel Negreanu now has 44 career cashes at the WSOP. This places him into a 16th-place tie with Barry Greenstein on the all-time cashes list.

The defending champion was Nick Schulman, from New York, NY. He entered this year’s tournament, but did not cash. many WSOP Circuit events and is a semi-pro who travels around the country playing in major tournaments. Cloutier enjoyed his biggest WSOP score yet, worth \$181,886.

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With his eighth-place finish in this event, Daniel Negreanu now has 44 career cashes at the WSOP. This places him into a 16th-place tie with Barry Greenstein on the all-time cashes list. The defending champion was Nick Schulman, from New York, NY. He entered this year’s tournament, but did not cash.

ODDS AND ENDS

The tournament was played over three consecutive days, from June 10-12, 2010.

This was the 848th gold bracelet event in World Series of Poker history. Note: This figure includes every official WSOP event played, including tournaments during the early years when there were no actual gold bracelets awarded. It also includes the 11 gold bracelets awarded at WSOP Europe (to date).

The final table was played on the ESPN Main Stage. Although the game is not a popular game for spectators, the presence of a few celebrity players attracted a larger-than-normal viewing audience. The official WSOP gold bracelet ceremony takes place on the day following the winner’s victory (or some hours later when the tournament runs past midnight). The ceremony takes place inside The Pavilion, which is the expansive main tournament room hosting all noon starts this year. The ceremony begins at the conclusion of the first break of the noon tournament, usually around 2:20 pm. The national anthem of the winner’s nation is played. The entire presentation is open to public and media. Video and photography are permitted by both public and members of the media.

Baker requested that the national anthem of the United States be played at his WSOP gold bracelet ceremony.

EVENT HISTORY

Billy Baxter holds every conceivable record in the Lowball category. He has dominated this form of poker in a manner that is unprecedented for any player in any game in history. Perhaps only the late poker legend Bill Boyd, who enjoyed similar domination in Five-Card Draw poker (which is no longer spread at the WSOP), can rival Baxter’s mastery of a single game. All of Baxter’s seven WSOP gold bracelets were won playing various forms of Lowball.

Baxter holds 16 WSOP cashes in Lowball events, the most of any player in this form of poker. To give some perspective of Baxter’s excellence, the current second-place leaders in Lowball career cashes are Bobby Baldwin and “Oklahoma Johnny” Hale, each with nine.

Deuce-to-Seven Lowball made its tournament debut at the 1973 WSOP. The game is rarely played anywhere except at the very highest levels. It’s rarely spread inside public card rooms -- either as cash games or tournaments. In fact, the WSOP is one of the few places where this poker variant is offered. The game was tacked onto the WSOP schedule because it was the preferred game of many high-stakes cash game players.

The very first Deuce-to-Seven Lowball champion was Aubrey Day. Since then, the Deuce-to-Seven gold bracelet has been won by a royal court of poker champions, including Jack Straus, Sailor Roberts, Billy Baxter, Doyle Brunson, Bobby Baldwin,

Sarge Ferris, Stu Ungar, Dewey Tomko, Seymour Lebowitz, Bob Stupak, John Bonetti, Freddy Deeb, Johnny Chan, Erik Seidel, Jennifer Harman, Howard Lederer, O'Neil Longsen, Barry Greenstein and others.

Deuce-to-Seven Draw Lowball means the worst, or lowest-ranked, hand wins the pot. The very best possible 2-7 lowball hand is 2-3-4-5-7 of mixed suits. An ace counts as a high card. Flushes and straights count against the player. While a wheel (A-2-3-4-5) is the perfect hand in standard lowball, in Deuce-to-Seven it is usually a losing hand since the ace counts as a high card against the player. So, K-2-3-4-5 is better than A-2-3-4-5.

In the "Triple-Draw" variant of this game, players may draw up to three times to make their hand. This tournament employed a "Single-Draw" format.

This same game was played earlier this week (Event #14). The \$1,500 buy-in tournament attracted 250 players, the most of any live Deuce Lowball tournament in history. There is some difference of opinion as to where and when this game originated. Since the 1930s, variations of Lowball have been spread throughout California and Nevada. According to poker theorist David Sklansky, Limit 'Double-Draw' Lowball was first spread at the (now defunct) Vegas World during the early 1980s.

Others cited a game called "Ten-Handed Triple-Draw Lowball" as the forbearer of Triple Draw, which was played at 'Amarillo Slim's' Super Bowl of Poker tournaments in Reno and Lake Tahoe during the period 1979 through 1984. Since 10-handed poker could only accommodate perhaps three or four players at most due to the number of cards needed to complete a hand, reducing the number of cards (to five) enabled more players to sit in the game.

The game Deuce-to-Seven is sometimes called "Kansas City Lowball."