



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

**Official Report
Event #50
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$5,000
Number of Entries: 1,001
Total Net Prize Pool: \$4,704,700
Number of Places Paid: 117
First Place Prize: \$952,694
June 28 – July 1, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

Peter "the Greek" Vilandos Wins \$5,000 Buy-In No-Limit Hold'em (Event #50)

Greek-Born Retiree Collects Biggest Prize of Career -- \$952,694 in Prize Money

72-Year-Old Isn't Done Yet – Wins Third WSOP Gold Bracelet

Konstantin Puchkov Cashes for 10th Time in 2012 – Ties Record for Most in One Year

Another Big WSOP Turnout – 1,001 Players Turnout for \$5,000 Buy-In Event

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

"Happy cards go to happy people. And, I'm happy."

-- Peter Vilandos (explaining how he won his third WSOP victory)

Panayote "Peter the Greek" Vilandos, a 72-year-old Greek-born retiree, now living in Houston, won this third career WSOP gold bracelet. "The Greek" won the \$5,000 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament, which was completed on what turned out to be an unscheduled fourth day of play. Indeed, the field was so big and so tough that three players returned from an impromptu finale, which lasted an additional four hours past the third day.

Vilandos defeated a brutally tough tournament lineup of 1,001 players, including many of the world's best No-Limit Hold'em players. He was well-compensated for his achievement. Vilandos pocketed the whopping sum of \$952,694 in prize money. Vilandos was also presented with his third career WSOP gold bracelet.

Vilandos has been playing in WSOP events for 20 years. He previously won gold bracelets in 1995 (Pot-Limit Omaha), and 2009 (No-Limit Hold'em). This marked his 21st time to cash. His combined lifetime earnings at the WSOP now totals more than \$2.3 million.

The runner-up was Kyle Julius, a 25-year-old poker pro from Naperville, IL. He accepted a nice consolation prize totaling \$589,687.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – PETER “THE GREEK” VILANDOS

Vilandos is known as “Peter the Greek” because his proud Greek heritage.

Vilandos’ real name is Panayote Vilandos.

Vilandos is a 72-year-old retiree who now plays poker semi-professionally. He has been a fixture at major poker tournaments around the United States for more than 20 years.

Vilandos arrived as an immigrant from Greece at the age of 27. He had already earned a degree from the University of Athens but decided to go back to school in the United States. He graduated from the University of Houston and earned a degree in electrical engineering.

Vilandos was a businessman in Houston. He started playing poker for fun. It eventually became a passion to the point he travels around the tournament circuit as a regular.

Vilandos believes his engineering background, which uses math, is helpful to him at the poker table.

Vilandos collected \$952,694 for first place. He was also awarded his third WSOP gold bracelet.

With this victory, Vilandos became the 58th player in history to win three or more gold bracelets.

According to the official records, Vilandos now has 3 wins, 9 final table appearances, and 21 in-the-money finishes at the WSOP.

Note: Vilandos will be classified as a semi-pro poker player in WSOP records, since he plays part-time and has been in the game for many years.

INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

Question: *So, you just won nearly a million dollars. Are you going to bail out Greece?*

Vilandos: No! Don’t ask me that. Don’t ask me that.

Question: *Three gold bracelets and \$952,694 in prize money. Is this the greatest moment of your poker career?*

Vilandos: Well, it’s between today and the last two times that I won. Today, my wife was here with me, and she shares this...she stayed with me the whole way through the last table. So, I enjoyed it a lot better today. I was very calm and I was focused on my opponents, you know. There are some very intelligent people who sat here. The last table was very smart people. But I got lucky, and I played the way I know how to play.

Question: *Talk about what the support from your wife and what that means to you.*

Vilandos: Of course, it means a lot. When you have your wife or your own people, you know, your own family, people to that are next to you and pull for you, pull for you in the tournament. I mean, of course it’s a lot. It means a lot to me, especially if I have no problems in my mind and no arguments with my wife. I play a lot better.

Question: *One unusual thing about this tournament was the longevity of it. How did you keep your focus through that long stretch of play?*

Vilandos: To tell you the truth, I wanted to finish it yesterday at night. I was more tired. I was just older than all of them. I’m healthy. I’ve got a strong heart. I didn’t mind playing last night. But, I liked to play today, too. I enjoyed it very much today.

Question: *What does this third gold bracelet mean to you compared to the first one you won back in 1995?*

Vilandos: It’s two plus one is three. That’s what it means to me. I believe I’m the Hercules of poker.

Question: *Many will say this is now a young man’s game. You talk about how this is a young man’s game, but you’re 72. Does experience help you here?*

Vilandos: I think the experience, it counts a lot. Health, it counts a lot. Being focused and clear-minded, it counts a lot. And good people with no tired being in the tournament, they get good cards. Tired cards, they go to tired people. Bad cards, they go to bad people. Happy cards, they go to happy people. I’m happy. I’m very strong. And I’m very healthy. I’ve got everything.

ODDS AND ENDS

This is the 1,009th gold bracelet to be awarded in WSOP history. It is also the 1,003rd WSOP event in history.

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #50, since it's the 50th gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over four consecutive days and nights, starting on Thursday at noon and concluding on Sunday.

The final table included only one former gold bracelet winner – Amir Lehavot.

The runner-up was Kyle Julius, from Naperville, IL. He earned \$589,687.

The top 117 finishers collected prize money.

Former gold bracelet winners that cashed included Konstantin Puchkov, David Diaz, Alex Kravchenko, Foster Hays, JP Kelly, Gavin Smith, Brock Parker, Matt Matros, and Dutch Boyd.

With his 14th place finish in this event, Konstantin Puchkov (Moscow, Russia) now has 10 cashes at this year's WSOP. This ties him with the late Nikolay Evdakov for most cashes in one year, which was set back in 2008.

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

United States (38): 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, Max Steinberg, Chris Tryba, David "ODB" Baker, Ronnie Bardah, Dung "Gomer" Nguyen, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu, Joey Weissman, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, Steven Loube, Kenny Hsiung, Greg Hobson, Pete Vilandos

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

Japan (1): Naoya Kihara

Great Britain (1): Craig McCorkell

Germany (1): Jan-Peter Jachtmann

Ukraine (1): Okelsii Kovalchuk

Italy (1): Rocco Palumbo

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

United States (35): 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, Max Steinberg, Chris Tryba, David “ODB” Baker, Ronnie Bardah, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu, Joey Weissman, Michael “the Grinder” Mizrachi, Steven Loube, Kenny Hsiung, Greg Hobson

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

Japan (1): Naoya Kihara

Great Britain (1): Craig McCorkell

Vietnam (1): Dung “Gomer” Nguyen

Germany (1): Jan-Peter Jachtmann

Ukraine (1): Okelsii Kovalchuk

Italy (1): Rocco Palumbo

Greece (1): Pete Vilandos

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 38 American winners has been:

Nevada (8): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David “Bakes” Baker, Chris Tryba

New York (5): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu, Joey Weissman

California (4): Chip Saechao, John Monnette, Phil Hellmuth, Max Steinberg

Texas (4): Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, David “ODB” Baker, Pete Vilandos

Pennsylvania (3): Brian Hastings, David “Doc” Arsht, Ben Scholl

Florida (3): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Michael “the Grinder” Mizrachi

Ohio (2): Adam Friedman, Kenny Hsiung

Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

Washington (1): Brandon Schaefer

Maryland (1): Cliff Goldkind

New Jersey (1): Brian Meinders

Oklahoma (1): Gabe Scott

Kansas (1): Dung “Gomer” Nguyen

Massachusetts (1): Ronnie Bardah

Georgia (1): Steven Loube

Alaska (1): Greg Hobson

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 (37): 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, Max Steinberg, Naoya Kihara, Chris Tryba, Craig McCorkell, David "ODB" Baker, Ronnie Bardah, Greg Ostrander, Okelsii Kovalchuk, Henry Lu, Rocco Palumbo, Joey Weissman, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, Kenny Hsiung, Greg Hobson

Semi-Pros (6): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov, Brian Meinders, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Jan-Peter Jachtman, Pete Vilandos

Amateurs (7): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott, David "Doc" Arsht, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl, Dung "Gomer" Nguyen, Steven Loube

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

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