



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

**Official Report  
Event #51  
Ladies No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$1,000  
Number of Entries: 936  
Total Net Prize Pool: \$842,400  
Number of Places Paid: 117  
First Place Prize: \$170,587  
June 29 - July 1, 2012**

## **TOURNAMENT HEADLINES**

Yen Dang Wins 2012 Ladies World Poker Championship

Denver Poker Pro Collected First WSOP Gold Bracelet and \$170,587

Ladies Championship Attracts 936 Entrants

## **TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW**

Yen Dang, from Denver, CO is the new 2012 Ladies World Poker Champion. The 29-year-old Vietnamese-born professional poker player won the \$1,000 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament, generally regarded as the premier ladies-only poker event in the world.

Dang defeated a diverse lineup of 936 players, many of whom came to Las Vegas specifically to participate in this event. The ladies-only tournament began in 1978 and is designed to celebrate and encourage women in the game of poker.

Dang pocketed the handsome sum of \$170,587 in prize money. She was also presented with her first WSOP gold bracelet.

Dang discovered poker while attending college. She was going to law school, when she found another passion in home games and casinos located in Colorado. She quickly discovered an aptitude for the game and has been playing full-time for about five years.

## **MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – YEN DANG**

Name: Yen Dang

Birthplace: Vietnam

Age: 29

Current Residence: Denver, Colorado

Profession: Professional Poker Player (4 years)

Previous Occupation: Student (Law School)

Marital Status: Single

Children: 1

Number of WSOP Cashes: 1

Number of WSOP final table appearances: 1

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

Best Previous WSOP finish: None

Total WSOP Earnings: \$170,587

*Note: Dang will be classified as a pro poker player in WSOP records, since she plays cash games full-time and has been in the game for about five years.*

## INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

**Question:** *So, how does it feel to win the gold bracelet at the 2012 Ladies World Poker Championship?*

**Dang:** Amazing! I mean, I had a mission to play this tournament and just win and it's just incredible that you set your mind at something and you accomplished it. I didn't expect it, but I worked really hard to try and get here, so it's just amazing that I'm here

**Question:** *This event is important for a lot of reasons -- particularly, because it's a showcase for women in the game. It celebrates women, and it brings more women into the game. Are you ready to be an ambassador for that cause?*

**Dang:** I've been playing poker for five or six years and I'm mostly a cash player and I play with a lot of men. In my opinion, I think any female, if they put their mind to it, can play just as well as a man can play in this game. I love poker, so I would definitely advocate any woman who's interested in playing poker.

**Question:** *Where did you first get interested in the game?*

**Dang:** I started learning the game in 2005 after I decided that I wasn't going to go back to law school. Then I just played pretty much home games recreationally. Then about a year ago this summer, I quit my job and I started to take a shot at playing poker for a living. So far, it's been great!

**Question:** *Was this the first time you played this ladies event?*

**Dang:** In 2005 -- so I played it a long time ago when I just started. This is my second ladies event here at the Rio.

**Question:** *Talk about you heads-up match with (runner-up) Debbie Pechac.*

**Dang:** The thing about poker is that we all know how to play. You just have to know who you're playing against, I mean your opponent. I played with her last night at the final table and previously. So, I know how she played. We analyzed it when we got back at the end of the day yesterday. Let's just say I knew my strategy going into this and I knew Debbie was an aggressive player. I pretty much knew what to expect playing with her.

**Question:** *Aside from poker, we'd like to know a little more about you.*

**Dang:** I was born in Vietnam. I grew up mostly in California. Then, we moved to Denver when I was a teenager. So, I pretty much I call it 'home' at this point, because my adult life has been in Denver. I always wanted to be a lawyer. That's the path I was going towards. But then all of a sudden, I decided to take a year off from law school and have my son. Then I found poker and home games. I thought it would be challenging and something that I felt I could be good at. So I just kept pursuing it and playing it to try and get better. I just kind of learned through watching other people play and playing myself. So I just decided to take the plunge and do it. My friend here was playing poker for a long time and he told me how profitable it was and so it was a no-brainer to try it.

**Question:** *Where do you play mostly?*

**Dang:** I started playing No-Limit in 2005 and in Colorado. There's a \$100 max bet, so at the casino's they only have \$30-60 Limit games. That's the main game I played. We'll go to Commerce or the Bellagio and play \$40-80 and we'll change it up. But lately, for the past year, I've been focusing on Limit Hold'em, not No-Limit.

**Question:** *Do you think poker ultimately will be fulfilling enough for you? Or, might you want to go back to law school or do a little more? This is obviously exciting, but sometimes not enough for some people.*

**Dang:** You know, I talk about that all the time. I feel like some days you feel kind of discouraged. Either you lose or you're not feeling challenged enough in what you do. But then it goes away. So, I just have a mindset that no matter what you do, you're going to get discouraged or bored eventually, even if you like it. But in poker, it changes, every hand changes, the way you play, it evolves so much, it keeps you interested. It never gets boring. Therefore it's something I can't say about most other occupations. Poker never gets boring.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

This is the 1,010<sup>th</sup> gold bracelet to be awarded in WSOP history. It is also the 1,004<sup>th</sup> WSOP event in history.

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #51, since it's the 51<sup>st</sup> gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three consecutive days and nights, starting on Friday at noon and concluding on Sunday night.

The final table included no former gold bracelet winners.

The runner-up was Debbie Pechac, from Phoenix, AZ. She collected \$105,586 as a consolation prize.

The top 117 finishers collected prize money.

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

United States (39): 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, Yen Dang

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

Vietnam (2): Dung "Gomer" Nguyen, Yen Dang

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

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 39 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

Colorado (1): Yen Dang

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 (38): 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, Yen Dang

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](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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