



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

**Official Report
Event #58
Pot-Limit Omaha High-Low Split
Buy-In: \$3,000
Number of Entries: 526
Total Net Prize Pool: \$1,435,980
Number of Places Paid: 54
First Place Prize: \$330,277
July 3 - 6, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

The Russians Aren't Coming....They're Here!

Viacheslav Zhukov Wins Event #58

Russian Wins Second Gold Bracelet in Two Years

Zhukov Joins Vitaly Lunkin as Only Duel Russian Gold Bracelet Winner

New Winner Collects \$330,277 Top Prize

1998 World Champion Scotty Nguyen Finishes Eighth – Second Final Table Appearance this Year

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

The Russians are not only coming, they are now winning -- and, winning big.

One of the most star-studded fields of the year turned up for the latest World Series of Poker tournament, which was the \$3,000 Buy-In Pot-Limit Omaha High-Low Split Championship. The high-caliber four-day competition finally concluded on Friday with the crowning of a new gold bracelet champion.

The winner was Viacheslav Zhukov, from Stary Oskol, Russia. He is a 23-year-old professional poker player.

Prior to taking up the game full-time last year, Zhukov graduated from Moscow Mining University where he earned his degree in geology. Zhukov must have learned something at the mining school. He appears to be using his formal education to maximum benefit. He returned to this year's WSOP following a breakout victory at last year's WSOP. This time, he was seeking to mine even more cash and gold. He ultimately ended up uncovering another treasure chest.

But this time, the dig was harder and it was deeper. He overcame a granite-tough field and a brutally-competitive final table lineup, which included no less than six former gold bracelet winners – Chris Bell (3rd), David “ODB” Baker (4th), Randy Ohel (5th) and former world champion Scotty Nguyen (8th). But the biggest test of all was from Roch Cousineau, who finished as the runner-up. No question, the Zhukov-Cousineau heads-up finale was one of the best battles of the year.

If Zhukov's name sounds familiar, you are either a student of 20th Century history or a big fan of poker.

Reminiscent of his military namesake, Marshal Georgy Zhukov, who commanded Russian forces during "The Great Patriotic War," this modern-day Zhukov displayed a similar fortitude of skills, becoming only the second Russian to ever win multiple WSOP gold bracelets. Vitaly Lunkin is the other Russian duel champ.

Zhukov's first victory was in last year's \$10,000 buy-in Omaha High-Low Split event. At the time, he was only the fourth Russian in history to win a gold bracelet. But two other Russians won last year, bringing the total number to six. Now, he is in even more elite territory.

In fact, 2011 was Zhukov's first year to attend the WSOP. That victory was also his very first WSOP cash.

This was the 58th event (of 61) on this year's WSOP schedule. The tournament attracted 526 entries. The total prize pool amounted to \$1,435,980. The top 54 finishers collected prize money. Aside from the stellar final table lineup, among those who cashed were former WSOP gold bracelet winners – Mickey Appleman (18th), Brent Carter (38th), Erick Lindgren (49th) and Dario Alioto (50th).

Indeed, this was huge day for Russian poker players. Just as Zhukov was earning his second gold bracelet victory, across the room comrade Konstantin Puchkov cashed for the 11th time at this year's WSOP. That broke the all-time record for most cashes in a single year at the WSOP. Fittingly, the old record (at ten) was held by Nikolay Evdakov, another Russian.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – VIACHESLAV ZHUKOV

The 2012 World Series of Poker \$3,000 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha High-Low Split World Champion is Viacheslav.

Zhukov is from Stary Oskol, Russia.

Zhukov was also born in Stary Oskol, which is located about 400 miles south of Moscow on the Oskol River.

Zhukov is a 23-year-old professional poker player. His name is spelled differently in some poker records – most notably as VYACHESLAV ZHUKOV.

In addition to his native Russian, Zhukov speaks English well. He is close to fluency.

The newest poker champion shares a name with Georgy Zhukov, who is the most decorated military commander in Russian history. Zhukov commanded the Red Army during World War II and was largely responsible for commanding forces that successfully defended Leningrad, Moscow, and Stalingrad.

Zhukov graduated from Moscow Mining University. He holds a degree in geology.

Zhukov is single.

Zhukov started playing poker about six years ago.

Last year was the first time Zhukov attended the WSOP. So, he has gold bracelet victories in each of his two trips to Las Vegas.

Zhukov is one of many Russian poker players who are becoming a formidable force in WSOP tournaments. Skill games have always been entwined deeply in Russian culture, which has been manifested in dominating competitions such as chess for centuries.

Following his victory last year, Zhukov suggested that many young Russians are now turning to poker rather than chess (or are adding poker to their repertoire of skills). This is largely motivated by the lucrative prize structures of major tournaments, such as the WSOP.

Zhukov collected a \$330,277 for first place. He was also awarded his second WSOP gold bracelet.

Zhukov is one of only six players from Russia in history to win a WSOP gold bracelet.

Zhukov is to be regarded as a poker pro, since he has been playing full-time for about two years.

Note: Zhukov will be classified as a professional poker player in WSOP records, since he plays poker full-time.

INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

Question: *This is becoming a yearly thing now, with you -- isn't it? Two years and two gold bracelets.*

Zhukov: Yeah, yeah. I hope there will be more in future.

Question: *Let's talk about Omaha High-Low Split. Is this a game that you specialize in?*

Zhukov: Well, yes -- but I play all the games well. I play limit games mostly. And I played a lot of them through the Internet. Last year was my first year to the WSOP. And I just feel lucky to win a bracelet. This year the series was going terrible. My only hope was two tournaments -- the Main Event and this tournament. But in this tournament, I made it to Day Two, then to Day Three. And then, I have experience to finish the tournament like a winner. Well, I did my best. Everything got my way well. And my opponents were extremely tough actually. And my only hope was that they were going to do some mistakes. And well, I think I got lucky mistakes. And I'm very excited.

Question: *Your victories are not easy. You were tested both times.*

Zhukov: Well, yeah. Tough fields in that tournament, because it was a championship for \$10,000, and this tournament was tough...with Scotty Nguyen and other guys.

Question: *There were six former gold bracelet winners.*

Zhukov: Yeah, yeah -- a lot of good guys. I just tried to play my best, you know? Not doing mistakes. Well, I took time to make my decision. It went well. And I just haven't done any mistakes.

Question: *So, which of the two wins more satisfying?*

Zhukov: Well, both of them because I had a terrible year last year, and then I won the bracelet. And this year was terrible too, and I won a bracelet again. They are both exciting, you know?

Question: *Can you talk about Omaha High-Low Split as a skill game?*

Zhukov: Well, I think that's obviously a skill game because a lot of the decisions you make on the flop, turn -- not pre-flop -- that's the main difference between No-Limit Hold'em and this games because you can go all-in pre-flop, you know. And you have 80 percent. Just...you couldn't win. But here, you can read the board and do good thinking. I think the Limit version is better actually instead of Pot-Limit because a lot of decisions we did...You know, tournament Limit Omaha High-Low is a little difficult because you have like 30 big blinds here. You have to raise, and when someone goes all-in, you pretty much have to call because you're pot-committed, and you can't fold. But Limit games, you always go to the flop, and you make good decisions. Well, that's the main difference.

Question: *Can you talk a little about your heads-up match?*

Zhukov: Well, actually, not heads-up, but when we were four people, we were very tough opponents. Already that time, I could see that it's going to last a little longer than I expected earlier. And opponents were tough. And no one going to give you, you know, chips for free. And you know, guys were tough, really. And I just tried to play my best and wait for them to make a mistake.

Question: *You're one of only six Russians to have a gold bracelet. And you're one of only two players to have two. Who's going to be the first Russian to hit three wins?*

Zhukov: Three? Well, my chance is big. Well, actually, when we count the bracelets in Russia, we also count on Ukraine because it's a very friendly nation to us. And one guy, Oleksii Kovalchuk, took his second bracelet this year too and last year won first. And well, we both have chances. A lot of guys play good. Konstantin Puchkov just broke the record. And he has one. Yeah, he has chances as well. Everyone has a good chance!

ODDS AND ENDS

This is the 1,017th gold bracelet to be awarded in WSOP history. It is also the 1,011th WSOP event in history.

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #58, since it's the 58th gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas.

The final table included five former gold bracelet winners -- Viacheslav Zhukov, Scotty Nguyen, David "ODB" Baker, Randy Ohel and Chris Bell.

The runner-up was Roch Cousineau, from Gatineau, Quebec (Canada). He put up a brutally tough fight and had his

opponent all-in at one point. But the Canadian suffered an unfortunately final few hands and ended up as the second-place finisher.

The top 54 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 #58, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (44): 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, Vanessa Selbst, Jim Willerson, Will Jaffe, Antonio Esfandiari, Greg Merson

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

Czech Republic (1): Tomas Junek

Russia (1): Viacheslav Zhukov

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

United States (40): 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, Vanessa Selbst, Jim Willerson, Will Jaffe, Antonio Esfandiari, Greg Merson

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

Czech Republic (1): Tomas Junek

Russia (1): Viacheslav Zhukov

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 44 American winners has been:

Nevada (9): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David "Bakes" Baker, Chris Tryba, Antonio Esfandiari

New York (7): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenger, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu, Joey Weissman, Vanessa Selbst, Will Jaffe

Texas (5): Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, David "ODB" Baker, Pete Vilandos, Jim Willerson

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

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

Maryland (2): Cliff Goldkind, Greg Merson

Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

Washington (1): Brandon Schaefer

New Jersey (1): Brian Meinders

Oklahoma (1): Gabe Scott

Kansas (1): Dung "Gomer" Nguyen

Massachusetts (1): Ronnie Bardah

Georgia (1): Steven Loubé

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 (44): 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, Vanessa Selbst, Will Jaffe, Antonio Esfandiari, Tomas Junek, Greg Merson, Viacheslav Zhukov

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

Amateurs (8): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott, David "Doc" Arsht, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl, Dung "Gomer" Nguyen, Steven Loube, Jim Willerson

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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