

World Series of Poker 2009

It's time for this year's WSOP recap. Cynthia decided to come with me this year. We headed out to the Rio for 15 nights, from the 9th until the 24th of June. The weather was great and we had a blast, but that's not why you're reading this. You want to know how the poker went. After last year's trip report the feedback was for more poker hands. I've included more poker hands. It was a long couple weeks and my notes are thin, but here we go.

Tuesday, June 9th

Cynthia's friend Trish dropped us off at the Pensacola airport for our 10:40am flight which got us into McCarron at 2:53pm. We hopped in the Avis rental car and drove straight to the Rio. Here's a view of the pools from our room as well as the skyline. After we checked into our suite I headed down to the Amazon Room to check out the action. The smallest game in the room is \$2/\$5 No-Limit Hold'em with a \$500 maximum buy-in, so I got on the wait list. It was a short night. I played well and left \$514 winner.

Wednesday, June 10th

The suites in the Rio are pretty nice and for only \$40 Sun-Thurs it's a great deal.

I played the \$2/\$5 cash game again and picked up another \$318. Also drove down town to a casino chip dealer and picked up a few \$1 chips to add to my collection. I'm up to 2,737 chips and you can check them all out on my [website](#).

We also checked out the WSOP events and looked for some of the pros. We saw Doyle Brunson and Daniel Negreanu playing and Cynthia got a photo with Daniel during a break in the action. On the way out of the Brasilia Room she also spotted Antonio Esfandiari. He busted out right after this picture but was still nice enough to pose for another. In the Amazon Room she saw Andy Bloch (one time captain of the infamous MIT blackjack team) and Phil Ivey. Before we got to Las Vegas Phil Ivey won bracelet #6 at Event #8 \$2,500 Deuce to Seven Draw Lowball (No-Limit). First place paid \$96,367. Not much, but rumor has it that he had between \$4M and \$10M in side bets that he'd win a bracelet. He tipped the entire 1st place money to the dealers. Several of those he had bets with were laying 2.7 to 1. After the win he offered to do it again. Stay tuned to see if he won bracelet #7. I also heard that he beat Caesars out of \$3M-\$4M the previous month at the craps tables.

Thursday, June 11th

Today the noon event was Event #24: \$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em. I decided to enter and was seated at [Table 95](#). The WSOP staff takes photos and posts them on their website. The tournament had 2,506 players and paid out the top 270 places. This year everyone was triple stacked, meaning that you started with 4,500 chips in the \$1,500 events. Each level is 60 minutes. With 10 players per table we can usually get in 30 hands per level. No named pros were at my table. I wanted to play tight and pick my spots. I'm in Seat 5. Here's the recap.

Level 1 (25/50 blinds)

- I want to set the tone as the aggressor and decide to raise to 150 with any 2 cards. I do that and pick up the blinds.
- Seat 6 calls 50 followed by Seat 8. Seat 3 is on the button and raises to 225. I'm in the big blind (BB) with   and call the extra 175. Seat 6 & 8 also call. The flop is   . A set of fives for me on a very coordinated board. I lead out for 325. Seat 6 folds, seat 8 calls, and seat 3 folds. It's heads-up. The turn is a  which is about the worse card in the deck as it completes

the straight and flush draws. Still, I lead for 450 and am called. The river is a  which gives me bottom full house. I bet 900 and Seat 8 folds.

- At the end of Level 1 I'm up to 5,550 chips.

Level 2 (50/100 blinds)

- Action is folded around to Seat 3 on the button who raises to 275. The small blind (SB) folds and I call the extra 175 with  in the BB. The flop comes  giving me bottom pair. I check and the button checks behind me. The turn is the . Bingo card for me. I lead for 450 and am called. The river brings the . I'm hoping that the button has the ace and lead for 600 this time. The button calls and I show trips to take the pot. I'm up to 6,775 in chips.
- It's raised to 400 and I call with . The flop is . I check and the initial raiser bets 425. I raise to 1,200 and he mucks. I take down the pot.
- It's folded to the button where Seat 3 makes it 400. The SB folds and I have  in the BB. I raise to 1,125 and take the pot.

Level 3 (75/150 blinds)

- It's folded to the SB who calls the extra 75 and I look down at  in the BB. I make it another 300 and am called. The flop comes . I bet 625 when it's checked to me and take down the pot.
- I'm at 9,000 chips at the end of the level, doubling my starting stack.

Level 4 (100/200 blinds)

- It's folded to Seat 2 in the cut-off (CO) who raises to 625. The button folds and I have  in the SB. I call and the BB folds. The flop comes . I lead out for 750 and the CO calls. The turn is the lovely  giving me trips. I bet 1,350 and the CO folds. I'm up to 10,600 in chips.
- In middle position I have  and raise to 800 trying to just win the 300 in blinds. Surprisingly I get 2 callers. The flop comes . I bet out 1,500 and both players fold.
- I have  on the button. It's folded around to the CO who raises to 800. I re-raise to 2,500 and the blinds and CO fold.
- I end the level with 13,775 chips, tripling my starting stack.

Level 5 (100/200 blinds and a 25 ante)

- After the break the board is showing that only 1,560 players from the initial 2,506 remain. The average chip count is 7,230. Day 2 of the World Championship \$10,000 No-Limit 2-7 Draw Lowball is starting and I see TJ Cloutier, Mike "The Mouth" Matusow, and Shawn "Sheiky" Sheikhan seated at the next table.
- Seat 8 raises to 650 from under-the-gun+1 (UTG+1) and it's folded to me in the SB. I call with  and the BB folds. We're heads-up with a flop of . UTG+1 moves all-in for 3,200. They've been playing pretty tight and I don't think they hit this board. I have the open-ended straight draw, a backdoor flush draw, and possibly the ace draw, so I call. We flip up the cards and the all-in players shows . I'm going to need some help. It comes on the turn in the form of the . The river  is a blank and I scoop the pot sending player 8 home.
- It's folded around to me in the CO and with  I raise to 650. The button and SB fold and the BB calls the extra 450. The flop is . Not what I was looking for. The BB checks and I check behind. The turn is the . The BB checks again and I bet 500. They call. The river is a . It goes check-check and the BB shows me . My kicker plays and I take down the pot.
- I end the level with 17,000 chips.

Level 6 (150/300 blinds and a 25 ante)

- A few hands into the level our table breaks and I move to Table 25 in Seat 6.
- Slow going in this level. A couple of my raises are picked off and my only decent hand of gets cracked. I end the level at 11,325 and we're on a 60 minute dinner break. I head back up to the room and give Cynthia the run down. I change into warmer clothes before heading back to the Amazon Room. I just want to survive these next 4 levels and make it into Day 2.

Level 7 (200/400 blinds and a 50 ante)

- 773 players remain with the average chips at 14,590. With 1,100 worth of blinds and antes in the pot I need to start picking up a few hands.
- It's folded to Seat 10 who raises to 1,250. It's folded around to my BB where I peek at . It doesn't get better than finding aces in the BB. I re-raise to 3,250 and my opponent goes all-in for about 7,000. Music to my ears. I quickly call. He shows . The dealer puts out a board of and I drag the pot. I'm up to 18,900 chips and the player in Seat 10 is headed to the rail.

Level 8 (300/600 blinds and a 75 ante)

- Cynthia comes down and since Table 25 is next to the rail she's able to snap a few nice photos.
- I make a few pre-flop raises and get re-raised by the player in Seat 9. I'm starting to get a little tired of this guy. I drop down to 9,175 in chips.
- It's folded around to me in the CO and I raise to 2,100 with . The button and SB fold to the guy in Seat 9 on the BB. He re-raises all-in and just has me covered. I push in my remaining 7,000 and table my nines. He's got . With no help on the board I'm out. They won't update the number of remaining players until the end of this level, but there's about 500+ left. I got further than the 2 events I played in last year. I'm pleased with my play (except for that last hand) but still a long way from cashing in my first WSOP event. We'll try again later in the week.

Friday, June 12th

Back to the \$2/\$5 cash game. I thought I'd record any interesting hands. At the Rio they allow a Mississippi straddle which means that the button can post \$10 pre-flop: action starts with the SB, giving the button last action. I straddle and have on the button. The SB calls the \$10 as well as 2 other players. I raise to \$50. The SB and one other player call. The flop comes . Not the best flop for me considering one of the other 2 players might have two pair, or the nut heart draw. The SB bets out \$60 and is called. I re-raise to \$160. The SB calls and the middle player goes all-in for another \$128. I call and the SB calls. I have \$180 more and the SB has me covered. The turn is the . The SB checks and I decide to move all-in. The SB folds his heart draw. The river is the . I show the full house. The middle player shows for the flopped Broadway straight before mucking his hand. The runner-runner full house gives me the \$1,200+ pot. Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good. I come away \$986 winner for the session.

Cynthia combed the Yellow Pages and found a Dim Sum place voted #1 by the locals. If you're ever in Vegas check out the Orchids Garden. It's right across the street from Smart Center Las Vegas on Sahara. We ate so much we went right to bed when we got back to the Rio.

Saturday, June 13th

I called my Uncle Denny before leaving Florida and asked him if he and his new wife Shirley wanted to come up from Lake Havasu City, AZ, to join us for dinner. Shirley is a poker fan and then drove up to meet us at 2pm in the Rio. So before they arrived I thought I'd get in a little more \$2/\$5. Only one

memorable hand from the session. I raise to \$25 from UTG and get 3 callers. I have . The flop comes for top pair and a flush draw. I lead out for \$60 and the guy on my left makes it \$180. It's folded to me and I call. The turn is the . I bet \$120 and get called. The river is a meaningless . I'm all-in for \$155 and get called. The guy shows me and I take down the pot. \$634 winner on that session.

At 2pm we had a bite at the All American Burger restaurant in the hotel and then I took them around to see the WSOP venues and check out the pro players. The final table of Event #25 was getting started. This was the \$2,500 Omaha/Seven Card Stud HL/8 or Better. Phil Ivey was at the final table along with 2001 Main Event Champion Carlos Mortensen. The chip leader had 607,000 chips and Phil Ivey was in 7th with 217,000. Pros Ming Lee and Dutch Boyd were also among the final 8 players. Phil ended up winning his 7th WSOP bracelet and 1st place money of \$220,538 (and who knows how many more millions).

We had a nice dinner at a local Brazilian Steak House and ended up closing the place after long conversation. We all had a blast. After dinner I decided to play some more with a belly full of protein. Not the greatest decision. In one hand I'm on the button with . After 3 players limp into the pot I raise it to \$25 and all 3 call. The flop is . A flopped straight with the open ended straight flush draw! No one can suspect I have the straight. It's checked to me and I bet \$30. I get one caller. The turn is a -- not what I want to see in case someone flopped a set and now has a full house. My opponent leads for \$100 and I raise to \$300. He calls. The river is the and he goes all-in for his remaining \$85. I call and he shows me . His runner-runner flush got there. Oh well. Down \$1,065 that session.

Sunday, June 14th

I started the day at the \$2/\$5 cash game again while Cynthia spent the day at the Rio pool. I had bad hand after bad hand in the first hour. Must have dropped \$600. Then I decide to give the \$5/\$10 game a shot. Unlike the \$2/\$5 game this one's uncapped, so you can buy in for as much as you'd like. I start with \$1,000. I worked that up to \$2,700 then down to \$1,700 and then back up to \$2,900 before cashing out. Only one hand to mention. It's my big blind and there are 4 limpers. I check my . The flop comes . I lead for \$35 and only the button calls. The turn is an . I bet \$125 and get called. The river is a . I bet \$200 and the button makes it \$600. I call and am beat with . Ouch!

Monday, June 15th

I decide to stay with the \$5/\$10 game and put in a long session ending \$430 winner. I few hands to share.

- I'm UTG+2 with . The button put on the \$20 straddle and both SB and BB called. The UTG player raised to \$80. I call as well as the SB, so we're three to the flop of . The UTG player bet \$125. I call and the SB folds. The turn is the . UTG checks and I bet \$160. He calls. The river is the . He checks again and I bet \$125. He has and I win the pot.
- I'm UTG with and raise to \$40 only to get 3 callers. The flop is . It checks around to the button who bets \$125. I raise to \$475. The two middle position players fold and the button is all-in for \$655. I call. The turn and river are and the button shows for the turned nut flush.
- There are 4 limpers to me in the BB with so I check. The flop is . I check and a player bets \$80. It's folded to me and I call. We're heads up to a turn of . I check and my opponent checks. The river is the improving my hand to a full house. I bet \$130 and am called. I show the full house and my opponent mucks.

Earlier in the day I checked out the live PokerRoad Radio broadcast with Gavin Smith and Joe Sebok. I also checked out the day's tournaments and spotted Chris "Jesus" Ferguson and last year's Main Event 2nd place finisher Ivan Demidov who took home \$5.8M to Russia. His girlfriend was playing on the table next to him. She's in the pot with 2 other players. The flop comes $10\clubsuit 4\heartsuit 10\diamondsuit$. She goes all-in, is re-raised all-in by the next player, and is called by the third player who has them both covered. She shows $10\spadesuit 6\spadesuit$, the second guy shows $10\heartsuit 3\heartsuit$, and the big stack shows $4\clubsuit 4\spadesuit$ and busts them both from the tournament.

Tuesday, June 16th

We've been here a week and time's flown by. In the early session I played \$2/\$5 and picked up \$508 followed by another \$435 that evening. Here are a few of the hands:

- I'm in the SB with $Q\clubsuit 10\spadesuit$. The UTG player calls and a middle position player raises to \$20. I call and the BB calls. The UTG player then re-raises to \$80. The middle position player folds, I call, and the BB folds, so we're heads-up to the flop. The flop comes $J\clubsuit 9\spadesuit 7\clubsuit$ giving me the open ended straight draw. I check and the UTG player bets \$120. I call. The turn is the $K\clubsuit$, completing my straight and giving me the second nut flush draw. I check and the UTG player moves all-in for \$290. I call and he shows $A\diamondsuit A\heartsuit$ and is drawing dead. The river is a meaningless $Q\heartsuit$ and he leaves the table busted after only his second hand.
- There are two limpers plus the button to me in the BB with $A\clubsuit 4\spadesuit$. I check my option. The flop comes $5\spadesuit 3\clubsuit 2\spadesuit$ giving me the wheel. I lead out for \$55 which is folded to the button who makes the call. The turn is the $A\diamondsuit$. I bet \$120 and have another \$560 behind. The button asks how much I'm playing. I tell him \$560 more and he calls. The river is the $4\diamondsuit$ putting the straight on the board. I lead out and bet \$400. He only has \$375 more. He tanks and finally makes the call with $5\diamondsuit 5\clubsuit$. We chop the pot.
- It's folded to me in second position and I bet \$25 with $A\spadesuit 7\diamondsuit$. I get one caller. The flop is $K\diamondsuit 10\clubsuit 8\diamondsuit$. I bet \$55 and get a call. The turn is the $6\heartsuit$. I bet \$110 and get called again. The river is the $8\heartsuit$. I bet \$335. The villain tanks for a while before folding his hand.
- A middle position (MP) player raises to \$20. The button calls and I call out of the BB with $J\spadesuit 10\diamondsuit$. The flop comes $7\diamondsuit 7\heartsuit 9\heartsuit$. It goes check-check and the button bets \$75. I call and the MP player folds. The turn is the $8\diamondsuit$ giving me top straight. I check again and the button fires \$90. I push all-in for \$305 and get the call. The river is the $Q\heartsuit$. I table the straight and the button mucks his hand.

Later in the day Cynthia and I checked out the pros. We spotted Annie Duke and her brother Howard Lederer. Cynthia and I both enjoyed watching Annie on *The Celebrity Apprentice* and after busting out she was kind enough to pose for a picture. We also saw Jennifer Harmon, one of my favorite players, as well as most of the pros you see on television. I think the only two players we didn't see were Phil Laak and Jennifer Tilly.

Wednesday, June 17th

Cynthia had found a couple health food restaurants and wanted to go back to the *Go Raw Café* for lunch today. I agreed to go along to watch. She had their *Gimme the Beet "Cheese" Burger w/ Fries*, but it's all raw. It's a veggie burger made with beets, carrots, sunflower seeds, and parsley. Served on living bread with hand prepared catsup, mustard, mayo, onion, tomato, lettuce, sprouts, avocado, and almond cheese. I passed on the raw food and went to one of the many Roberto's Taco Shops in Las Vegas. When we returned to the Rio I wasn't feeling great, so I went to bed. I must have been the swine flu or its cousin because I ran a fever that didn't break until 3:30am. A whole day in Las Vegas wasted. Now, normally this wouldn't be such a big deal but tomorrow the NHL awards were in town at the Palms

Casino and the WSOP was hosting an NHL charity event today. So while I'm sick I bed Cynthia heads to the Amazon Room where WSOP commissioner Jeffrey Pollock is there with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and the Stanley Cup! Maybe I'll feel better tomorrow.

Thursday, June 18th

I head down to the Amazon Room around 2pm and decide to play some \$5/\$10 again. I find a new table starting up and everyone buys in for \$1,000-\$3,000. Two players, one at each end of the table, are young Internet players. Amazingly, most of the poker players at the WSOP, whether tournament or cash game players, are younger than me. I watched a little of a \$25/\$50 Pot Limit Omaha game where two of the players were in their mid 20s. Each with individual packets of \$10,000 wrapped in rubber bands stacked on the table in back of their \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, and \$5,000 chips. I watched one French kid win a \$70K+ pot off a 30-something Italian guy. These kids are young and good. Anyway, back to my little \$5/\$10 game. These kids would routinely re-raise in position with holdings as weak as   and push in \$500+ on draws. After a few hours I had to go up to the room to reload. At the end of the night I raised the white flag and went to bed licking my wounds. It was not a pretty session. Another night of fever and chills. Hopefully I'll feel better in the morning.

Friday, June 19th

Cynthia decided I need a break from playing poker and we take a drive around town and spend the day together. Earlier in the week we visited Las Vegas' newest casino, simply called "M", and liked the quiet pool, so we spent the day there. Even I had a nice time relaxing. After a week without any Italian food we decided to try Piero's. Our eyes were bigger than our stomachs and after a salad and pasta course we skipped the veal entrees and headed right to dessert. We finished the night by taking a walk around the Palazzo Shops (the expansion to the Venetian).

Saturday, June 20th

Time for another WSOP event. This one was Event #39: \$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em. This one drew 2,715 players and paid the top 270. I was seated at [Table 257](#), Seat 5, in the Miranda Room. Again, no pros at my table. Same 4,500 in starting chips. Here's how it went:

Level 1 (25/50 blinds)

- I start out great picking up pocket 7s, pocket 8s, making a flush, and flopping aces up. My   even rivered a bigger flush than my opponent on one hand. I grew my stack to 7,175 chips by the end of the 60 minute level.

Level 2 (50/100 blinds)

- A rocky level with only one hand to note. I checked my   in the BB. The flop came   . I bet 200 and got one call. Turn was a . I bet 400 and was called. River was a . I bet 400 again and was called. I showed my straight and my opponent mucked. I ended the level at 6,400 chips.

Level 3 (75/150 blinds)

- I started bad by losing the first two hands. I played  . The flop was    followed by  . The villain had   to draw out on me.
- I doubled up on a hand when my   stood up against  .
- I doubled up again when I found   on the button after 2 callers. I raised to 375. The SB called and the BB raised to 2,150. Folded back to me. I pushed all-in and was called by the SB with  . He never improved and I won the pot.
- I ended the level with 10,600 chips.

Level 4 (100/200 blinds)

- We're down to 1,740 players. I pick up $5\heartsuit 5\clubsuit$ in middle position and raise to 600. The SB calls. The flop comes $A\clubsuit K\clubsuit 3\clubsuit$. I bet 800 and get called. The turn is the $5\heartsuit$ giving me a set of fives. I bet 1,800 and again get called. The river is the ugly $9\clubsuit$. The SB bets 2,800 and I have to muck. This puts me down to 7,000 chips.
- It's raised to 600 and I find $K\heartsuit K\clubsuit$ in the SB. I re-raise to 1,350 and get called. It's heads-up to a flop of $A\heartsuit K\heartsuit 4\heartsuit$. Nice flop for me, especially if my opponent has a big ace. I make a continuation bet of 1,275 and he re-raises me all-in. He has me covered. I know he's on a draw. I call. He shows me $Q\heartsuit J\heartsuit$ for the flush and straight draws. The turn is a $7\heartsuit$ and the river is a $4\heartsuit$. I double up to 12,600 chips and we're down to 1,420 players.

Level 5 (100/200 blinds with a 25 ante)

- I have $K\heartsuit K\clubsuit$ and raise to 800. A player in Seat 7 moves all-in for his last 3,450. I call. He shows $A\heartsuit Q\clubsuit$. The board runs out $7\heartsuit A\heartsuit 4\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 7\heartsuit$ and he wins.
- I have $9\heartsuit 9\clubsuit$ and raise to 600. Seat 10 moves all-in for 2,475 more. I call and have him covered. He shows $10\heartsuit 10\clubsuit$. Not good. The board runs out $K\heartsuit 6\heartsuit 2\heartsuit A\clubsuit 9\heartsuit$ and with my rivered set I knock him out of the tournament.
- We're down to 1,266 players and I have 15,500 chips. Average chips is 9,650.

Level 6 (150/300 blinds with a 25 ante)

- We move from the Miranda Room into the main Amazon Room. This is the last level before the dinner break. I'm UTG+1 and pick up $3\heartsuit 3\heartsuit$ and raise to 600. A player 3 seats over re-raises to 1,600. It's folded to me and I call the additional 1,000. The flop comes $3\clubsuit 5\heartsuit 10\clubsuit$ giving me bottom set. I check and the villain checks behind. The turn is the $3\heartsuit$ giving me quads. I bet 800 and am called. The river is a $7\heartsuit$. I bet 1,500 and get called. Villain mucks when he sees my quads.
- I end the level with 22,575 chips – the highest in any of the 4 WSOP tournaments I've played. We're down to 874 players with an average chip stack of 13,980. Cynthia is in the noodle restaurant with dinner waiting for me (such a good wife). Again I'm in a good location for pictures, so I ask her to come by later on before they break our table.

Level 7 (200/400 blinds with a 50 ante)

- I raise and pick up the 1,100 in blinds and antes.
- Early on I pick up $A\heartsuit Q\heartsuit$ in the SB. It's folded around to the big stack at the table in Seat 1 who raises to 1,150. Seat 2 calls and it's folded to me. I decide to raise to 5,000. The BB folds, but as he folds I see him mucking the $A\heartsuit$. The Chinese guy in Seat 1 calls and Seat 2 folds. We're heads-up to a flop of $A\clubsuit 9\clubsuit 2\clubsuit$. This means that there's only one other ace out there, but I have to worry about the 3 clubs on the board. I decide that Seat 1 doesn't have the other ace so I bet 15,000. Seat 1 moves all-in and has me well covered. I slide in my remaining 5,000 chips. I've seen this guy gamble on draws before. Unfortunately he shows me $A\heartsuit K\heartsuit$. Now I'd dead to a queen or running clubs for a chop. The turn brings a $6\heartsuit$ and the river a $4\clubsuit$ and I'm out. It felt like I had the wind knocked out of me. What was I doing even playing that hand, especially against the big stack? What a donkey.
- 327 players made it to Day 2 where average chips were 37,362. 270th place paid \$2,891. Maybe I could have stuck it out. Who knows? What I do know is that the Chinese guy in Seat 1 who has my chips went on to come in 3rd and collect \$269,609.

Cynthia spent the day at the Rio pool where she befriended one of the Sapphire Girls (topless pool girls). She spent more time hanging out with strippers than I did! Sorry, no photos. You'll have to talk to her about her interesting experiences.

Sunday, June 21st

After the disappointing loss in the tournament I head back to the \$2/\$5 game while Cynthia checks out the conservatory at the Bellagio. It was a rough session where I ended \$1,100 loser before heading back to that Dim Sum place for dinner with Cynthia.

Monday, June 22nd

Back to the \$2/\$5 game where things improved a bit. I ended \$1,220 winner on the day. Cynthia went to the spa and had a massage.

Tuesday, June 23rd

Our last day in Las Vegas. Cynthia went back to the spa and had an organic açai berry body scrub (you'll have to ask her about that). I played a little more \$2/\$5 but couldn't get anything rolling. I quit \$126 loser just before dinner. Cynthia and I ate at the Indian place in the Rio. We got all packed up before heading to bed.

Wednesday, June 24th

Hard to believe that 15 nights have gone by. Where did the time go? We had a great time in Las Vegas. Not a profitable trip, but well worth it. The final tally on the poker front was a drop of \$3,000 spent entering the two tournaments and another \$2,557 dropped in the cash games. We had an early flight home on Delta at 5:50am and Trish picked us up at the airport when we landed at 3pm. It's good to be home.

The \$10,000 Main Event starts July 3rd with the final table scheduled for 7-10 November. The field is expected to eclipse last year's total of 6,358 players and generate a first place payout of over \$9M. You can follow all of the action live on-line at the [World Series of Poker](#).