



2010 World Series of Poker Presented by Jack Link's Beef Jerky
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Official Report
Event #5
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$1,500
Number of Entries: 2,092
Total Net Prize Pool: \$2,824,200
Number of Places Paid: 80
First Place Prize: \$515,501
May 31 to June 2, 2010

Tournament Headlines:

Praz Bansi Wins No-Limit Hold'em Gold Bracelet – His Second

English Poker Pro Collects Half-a-Million in Event #5

Another Day, Another 2,000-Player Field at the WSOP

Overview

The winner of the \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em championship (Event #5) was Praz Bansi. He is a 32-year-old professional poker player from London, England. Bansi collected more than half a million dollars for first place -- \$515,501 to be exact – plus his second WSOP gold bracelet. Bansi's first victory took place at the WSOP in 2006. He also finished third in last year's WSOP Europe Main Event championship, held in London. Bansi topped a huge field of 2,092 players and won the game's most coveted prize. The tournament began on Memorial Day and ended late on Wednesday night. His victory was cheered on at the Rio in Las Vegas by a huge gallery of spectators. The runner up was Vincent Jacques, a first-time WSOP participant from Quebec. Among those who also cashed were last year's Poker Hall of Fame inductee Dewey Tomko. WSOP Circuit top pro Dwyte Pilgrim finished in-the-money. Other well-known names who cashed included David Bach, Antonio Esfandiari, and Chad Brown.

The Champion – Praz Bansi

The \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em champion (Event #5) is Praz Bansi, from London,

England.

Bansi is 32-years-old. He is single.

Bansi is a professional poker player. He has been playing full time for about six years. Prior to playing poker, Bansi worked as a personnel recruiter.

Bansi now has more than \$2.5 million in accumulated overall tournament winnings worldwide. He also crossed the million-dollar threshold in WSOP winnings with this victory.

Bansi's first cash took place in 2005 at a tournament called the European Poker Classics. His first WSOP cash was in 2006, when he took 73rd place in a \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament. Two weeks later, he won his first WSOP gold bracelet in the \$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em event.

Bansi collected \$515,501 for first place in his latest WSOP victory. He was presented with his second WSOP gold bracelet.

Bansi finished third in last year's WSOP Europe Main Event championship held at the Empire Casino in London. He later said that was the toughest field he had ever encountered.

According to official records, Bansi now has eight in-the-money finishes, four final table appearances, and two wins. His career WSOP earnings now total \$1,417,300.

With this win, Bansi becomes tied with only two others as the only English players in history with multiple WSOP gold bracelets. The others are Chris Bjorin (2) and John-Paul Kelly (2).

Bansi has cashed at the WSOP every year since 2006 (now five straight years).

Winner Quotes:

On which means more, the first gold bracelet or the second: "That's a tough one. I have not really thought about it yet, but I think this one means a bit more. There are quite a few guys in the UK who have one gold bracelet. But two is a rare thing."

On what this victory means when compared with other major tournaments where he's played: "The EPT's and the other tournaments are important, but to me – the World Series is everything."

On the transition from working a regular job to playing poker for a living: "I worked in recruitment. I decided after a few months that it wasn't what I wanted to do. But I stuck it out because of family and the things they expected me to do, and everything. But then I started playing (poker) and got a bug for the game and decided I just couldn't do the nine-to-five in an office."

On superstitions: "I have many. It's ridiculous....I know it's stupid. It does not really affect the cards, but after you hang around poker a long time and all you hear is unlucky this and unlucky that...."

On adjusting his expectations upward at this WSOP, now that he has already won a gold bracelet: "We've been saying that if we get off to a good start as a group (of friends) we think we can go on and win 3 or 4 bracelets between us. I hope I might make another score. I know it's a bit greedy to ask."

The Final Table

The final table consisted of only one former WSOP gold bracelet winner – Praz Bansi.

Four different nations were represented at the final table: Canada, Dominican Republic, England, and the United States. A player from Mexico (Santiago Nadal) finished tenth.

The final table began nine-handed.

Final table participants ranged in age from 21 to 42. Six of the nine players were aged in their 20s.

Six of the nine finalists cashed for the first time in this tournament.

The runner up was Vincent “Vluff” Jacques, from Quebec (Canada). “Vluff” is his online poker name. He is 21-years-old and is a student. This was his first time to cash in a WSOP event. He collected \$320,913.

The third-place finisher was Calvin Kordus, from Anchorage, AK. This was his first WSOP cash.

The fourth-place finisher was David Tuthill, from St. Petersburg, FL. This was his first WSOP cash.

The fifth-place finisher was Tomer Berda, who is originally from Israel. He now lives in Menlo Park, CA. This was his best finish in three WSOP cashes. He previously owned a successful software development company before getting seriously involved in poker.

The sixth-place finisher was Don Offord, a.k.a. “Little He-Man.” He lives in Broomfield, CO. This was his first time to cash at the WSOP. His goal, he says, is “to be a superstar.”

The seventh-place finisher was Hugh Bell, from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. He is believed to be the highest WSOP finisher in history from the Caribbean nation.

The eighth-place finisher was David Sands, from Las Vegas, NV. This was his fourth WSOP cash.

The ninth-place finisher was Kyle Knecht, from Cincinnati, OH.

The final table officially began at 6:15 pm and ended at 2:30 am.

Other In-the-Money Finishers

The top 80 finishers collected prize money. Aside from those who made the final table, former WSOP gold bracelet finishers who cashed in this event included – Thomas Alenius, David Bach, Humberto Brenes, Antonio Esfandiari, and Todd Wittles.

With his cash in this tournament, Humberto Brenes now has 56 in-the-money finishes, which moves him one spot ahead of T.J. Cloutier. Brenes is now alone in sixth place all-time.

Odds and Ends

This is the 835th 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 secondary stage, inside the Amazon Room at the Rio.

Poker has reached the stage where a 2,000-player field no longer causes much of a stir. Consider that the first live poker tournament to break the 2,000-player barrier was the 2004 WSOP Main Event. Since then, 17 WSOP events have been played with 2,000+ player fields. At least seven tournaments this year are expected to crack that figure -- which would be the most ever in WSOP history.

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.

Bansi requested that the national anthem of the United Kingdom ("God Save the Queen") be played at his WSOP gold bracelet ceremony.

Event History

No-Limit Hold'em has been the only game included on the WSOP schedule every year since inception in 1970.

Tournament Play

The tournament was played over three consecutive days, from May 31st through June 2nd, 2010.

The tournament began on Memorial Day weekend.

The final hand of the tournament came when Praz Bansi was dealt As Js. Opponent Vincent Jacques was dealt Ac 8s. The board came Qs Qd Jh 8d 2c. That gave Bansi the pot with the better kicker(s).

The final table officially lasted 8 hours and 15 minutes.

2010 WSOP Statistics

Through the conclusion of Event #5, the 2010 WSOP has attracted 8,092 total entries. \$13,831,450 in prize money has been awarded to winners.

Through the conclusion of Event #5, the nationalities of winners have been:

United States (3)
Canada (1)
England (1)

Through the conclusion of Event #5, the national origin (birthplace) of winners has been:

United States (2)

Vietnam (1)

Canada (1)

England (1)

Through the conclusion of Event #5, the ratio of professional poker players to semi-pros and amateurs who have won gold bracelets is as follows:

Professional Players (3): Michael Chow, Michael Mizrachi, Praz Bansi

Semi-Pros (0): None

Amateurs (2): Duc Pham, Aadam Daya

-- 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: www.wsop.com. Thank you.

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