



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

**Official Report
Event #48
Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$3,000
Number of Entries: 247
Total Net Prize Pool: \$674,310
Number of Places Paid: 27
First Place Prize: \$165,205
June 26-28, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

Kenny Hsiung Wins \$3,000 Buy-In Limit Hold'em (Event #48)

29-Year-Old Local Poker Pro Collects \$165,205 in Prize Money

Hsiung Makes Huge Comeback at End of All-Night Marathon

"Action Bob" Robert Hwang Finishes as Runner-Up

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Kenny Hsiung won the most recent championship event at the 2012 World Series of Poker. The 29-year-old poker player and college student -- now residing in Henderson, NV by way of his hometown of Cincinnati, OH -- won the \$3,000 buy-in Limit Hold'em tournament, which is classified as Event #48.

Hsiung not only received the game's most coveted prize, the gold bracelet, but \$165,205 in prize money, as well.

The three-day competition drew a modest-sized field. The tournament began with 247 entrants on Tuesday, and concluded on Thursday night at the Rio in Las Vegas. A worldwide viewing audience also followed the final table action over the WSOP.com live stream broadcast.

Hsiung is no stranger to making deep runs at the WSOP and finishing in the money. This marked his eighth time to cash. His first showing on the WSOP radar screen was back in 2006. Hsiung cashed in this same event once before, finishing ninth back in 2009. Hsiung is enrolled as a student at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

The runner-up was a longtime poker grinder, Robert Hwang, from Barnegat, N.J. He is known within the poker world as "Action Bob," for his aggressive playing style.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – KENNY HSIUNG

Name: Kenny Hsiung

Birthplace: Cincinnati, Ohio

Age: 29

Current Residence: Henderson, NV

Marital Status: Single

Children: No

Profession: College Student (University of Nevada-Las Vegas)

Former Profession: Professional Poker Player

Education: Attended Ohio State University, now attending UNLV

Number of WSOP Cashes: 8

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

Best Previous WSOP finish: 9th (2009)

First-Place Prize Money: \$165,205

Note: Hsiung will be classified as a professional poker player in WSOP records, since he plays full-time exclusively and has no other occupation.

INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

Question: *Would you give us a little bit of your background aside from poker?*

KENNY: I grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. I went to Ohio State University. When I was 19, I found online poker. Just stopped going to class and basically played Limit Hold'em online and that's what I did. It's kind of a big deal for my parents obviously. But, I did well. I guess I didn't really diversify my portfolio and I just stopped winning. I'm a pretty big spender. Long story short – now, I'm a student at UNLV and I don't really play much poker.

Question: *What are you studying?*

KENNY: Gaming Management.

Question: *You might get into this industry, perhaps? Is that the idea?*

KENNY: Maybe. I just kind of want to go to Macau and meet Asian girls!

Question: *Did "Black Friday" affect you a great deal, or not at all?*

KENNY: No, it affected me. I was still playing every day. Anyone who played poker was affected. They can't say that it didn't.

Question: *How about this victory? I know that it's a little early to make any assessments, but this might change things - give you more confidence, maybe play a little more.*

KENNY: You know I've always been confident in my Limit Hold'em game. I think I'm really good. I haven't played that many tournaments. In terms of confidence, I have all the confidence I need. But it's not very profitable to play Limit Hold'em right now when you could be playing PLO or Mixed-Games, no matter what stakes.

Question: *One thing we noticed about the final table tonight was you had quite the interesting set of rail birds over here. They really seemed to care. When things were getting long there, how much did it mean to have these guys here for you?*

KENNY: I don't know. I was kind of honed in and trying to focus. Obviously, it was funny. I feel bad for my opponent, because obviously it's kind of obnoxious, but they're my friends and I'm flattered to have them there. I was just talking to them the other night, I was playing this tournament and there were a zillion people going crazy like it was a soccer game and someone was like, 'That's so annoying.' And I was like, 'I wish I had that many friends.' I mean they weren't quite as crazy as the Europeans, or whomever. They had a chant. We have our own chants.

Question: *Tell us a little about the heads-up final there. You and Robert Hwang were going for quite awhile. A lot of back and forth.*

KENNY: Man! At the start, he kept picking up hands and every time I made a play, he just had it. You can't make someone fold if they just have a pair. I tried to three barrel him once and then towards the end the board was A, 3, 3 or whatever and I bet, and he called, and I put him on King high and the turn was a 10. I had 9-4 off. Just 9-high, no pair, no

draw. He checked again and I bet again because 'Well, maybe I can get him to fold King-high.' Then the river came – some low card that didn't pair the board and didn't complete the flush. He checked and without thinking, I just gave up without thinking the hand through. When the pot's that big, I have to fire one bet on the river, I think, to make him fold a flush draw, because he was playing his flush draws like that. He was also check-raising his flush draws. So it's a tough spot, but really not so tough of a spot if you think about it, because the pot's so big and obviously a flush draw is in his range. That was just one hand of the heads-up. That was quite demoralizing, because it went check, check on the river and then he said, 'Jack high.' I just mucked my hand, because I had 9-high. Obviously, I probably would have won the pot if I had just bet.

Question: *This is an event that's struggling. In fact, Limit Hold'em is declining badly not just here, just about everywhere. Why is Limit Hold'em going down? And second of all, do you think it has much of a future?*

KENNY: I don't think it has much of a future, sadly. I want to have hope, but obviously I gave up a long time ago. It's a dying game. It's one of those games where if you go to Commerce (in Los Angeles), you know there's one table of regulars and they're all 50+ and they're playing Stud. I think Limit Hold'em is going to be like that in twenty years. It's just unfortunate, because No-Limit was popularized by TV. Thirty years ago, it was all about Limit. Then there was the Main Event Championship. There was a \$10K Championship for Limit Hold'em and that was cool and now this year, they just don't have one and I figured that it would get more players. The turnout was still droopy. People don't know how to play it, they're No-Limit pros and they don't know how to play it, so I really don't know. What are you going to do? I guess I'll have to play in all of the Limit Hold'em events, every year.

ODDS AND ENDS

This is the 1,007th gold bracelet to be awarded in WSOP history. It is also the 1,001st WSOP event in history.

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #48, since it's the 48th gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three consecutive days and nights, starting on Tuesday at noon and concluding on Friday morning.

The total duration of the final table was about nine hours. Play began at 5:30 p.m. and ended at 3:30 a.m. (there was a one-hour dinner break).

The final table included no former gold bracelet winners.

The runner-up was Robert Hwang, from Barnegat, NJ. He is a longtime poker pro, who played online for many years until last spring. Hwang now played much more live action and tournaments, mostly in Atlantic City and Philadelphia. Hwang had his opponent all-in once, but lost the critical hand. Less than an hour later, Hwang busted in second place. Nonetheless, this was will Hwang's biggest WSOP cash ever, at \$102,118.

The top 27 finishers collected prize money.

2010 world poker champion Jonathan Duhamel finished in 17th place. This was his sixth time to cash at the WSOP since winning the title 18 months ago.

One notable player finished in fifth place – Dwyte Pilgrim. The Brooklyn-based poker pro broke onto the poker scene three years ago while playing on the WSOP Circuit, where he won three gold rings. He also was the unofficial "WSOP Circuit Player of the Year" in 2009-2010. Pilgrim went on to win major tournaments held elsewhere. However, to this point Pilgrim has yet to win a WSOP gold bracelet. This was deepest run, to date.

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.

EVENT HISTORY

Limit Hold'em's popularity appears to be on the decline. During the 1990s, Limit Hold'em tournaments always attracted the largest fields of any tournaments in the world -- both at the WSOP and elsewhere. For many years, the \$1,500 buy-in Limit Hold'em tournament had twice number of entrants as the Main Event. It was traditionally the first open event held during the first weekend of the WSOP. However, attendance for this form of poker has been declining since the rise of No-Limit Hold'em. While attendance for most other games has increased in 2012, Limit Hold'em events have experienced the greatest percentage decrease.

Limit Hold'em first made its debut at the 1983 WSOP. The first Limit Hold'em world champion was Tom McEvoy. He went on to win the Main Event that same year.

The start of Limit Hold'em's popularity can be traced back to California's legalization of flop games (including Hold'em) in 1988. Prior to the late 1980s, Limit Hold'em was spread in only a few small Las Vegas casinos and underground games, located mostly in the American South.

Limit Hold'em was king during most of the 1990s, except in the Northeast where Seven-Card Stud was the most dominant form of poker that was played. In fact, finding a No-Limit Hold'em game was nearly impossible. In 2003, things began to change. No-Limit Hold'em gradually became the most popular form of poker played not only in the United States, but abroad.

The list of former Limit Hold'em champions is quite an illustrious group. Former Limit Hold'em champions include – Tom McEvoy, Berry Johnston, Humberto Brenes, Johnny Chan, Mickey Appleman, David Chiu, Jay Heimowitz, Farzad Bonyadi, Greg Mueller, and others.

2012 WSOP STATISTICS

Through the conclusion of Event #48, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (36): 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

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 (34): 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

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

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 36 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

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

Texas (3): Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, David "ODB" Baker

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

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 (36): 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

Semi-Pros (5): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov, Brian Meinders, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Jan-Peter Jachtman

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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