



WORLD SERIES OF POKER (WSOP) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) instituted a Player of the Year system in 2004, once Harrah's (now Caesars) took over the tournament.

The system awards points based on finish for all open bracelet events. Anyone who cashes in a WSOP gold bracelet event is awarded points. And the player with the most overall points is the winner of the WSOP Player of the Year. Bluff Magazine created and powers the formula used to determine the WSOP POY.

Adding the WSOP Player of the Year to your resume is one of the highest honors a poker player can achieve.

Typically, the individual who wins this award has multiple in-the-money finishes and a WSOP gold bracelet among those cashes. In fact, no player has won the award without at least capturing a gold bracelet.

The WSOP Player of the Year includes all open bracelet events in a calendar year. This year's winner had 65 events to compete in to qualify for the WSOP Player of the Year: 58 open events at the WSOP, and the seven that were up for grabs in Cannes, France at WSOP Europe.

Phil Hellmuth, with two WSOP gold bracelets, four final table appearances and 889.33 points, leads the 2012 WSOP Player of the Year standings. However, Greg Merson has 481.13 points and can earn an additional 500 points if he wins the WSOP Main Event. So Merson must win the Main Event to beat Hellmuth and capture the WSOP Player of the Year crown. He would have 981.13 points if he won the WSOP Main Event. Merson would finish second in the WSOP Player of the Year if he finishes 2nd, 3rd or 4th in the Main Event.

The current WSOP Player of the Year standings can be found here:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/2012.asp?sort=poypts>

Last year, it also took until the Final Table of the WSOP Main Event to determine the winner. Ben Lamb beat out Phil Hellmuth for the crown. Regardless of where Hellmuth finishes this year, it will be the best finish by a player in back to back years since the inception of the WSOP Player of the Year.

Below is a list of WSOP Player of the Year winners, along with their accomplishments in their winning year.

WSOP PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS (Historical)

| YEAR | NAME | BRACELETS | FINAL TABLES | CASHES | MONEY WON |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 2004 | Daniel Negreanu | 1 | 5 | 6 | \$346,280 |
| 2005 | Allen Cunningham | 1 | 4 | 5 | \$1,006,935 |
| 2006 | Jeff Madsen | 2 | 4 | 4 | \$1,467,852 |
| 2007 | Tom Schneider | 2 | 3 | 3 | \$416,829 |
| 2008 | Erick Lindgren | 1 | 3 | 5 | \$1,348,528 |
| 2009 | Jeffrey Lisandro | 3 | 4 | 6 | \$807,521 |
| 2010 | Frank Kassela | 2 | 3 | 6 | \$1,255,314 |
| 2011 | Ben Lamb | 1 | 4 | 5 | \$5,352,970 |