



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

**Official Report
Event #8
Omaha High-Low Split
Buy-In: \$1,500
Number of Entries: 967
Total Net Prize Pool: \$1,305,450
Number of Places Paid: 117
First Place Prize: \$264,400
June 1-3, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

Herbert Tapscott Wins First WSOP Gold Bracelet – His First WSOP Cash

71-Year-Old Alabamian Tops Record Field of 967 Players – Largest Omaha High-Low Split Field in Poker History

Former Champ Gavin Griffin Barely Misses Victory – Finishes Second

Cha-Ching! Another Payday for Phil Hellmuth – All-Time WSOP Leader Now Up to 88 Career Cashes

Seven Gold Bracelets Won – 54 More at Stake!

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Herbert Tapscott won the largest live Omaha High-Low Split poker tournament ever held tonight, topping a record 967-player field in the eighth gold bracelet event of this year's World Series of Poker.

The 71-year-old financier from Hartselle, Alabama, collected \$264,400 – one of the largest Omaha High-Low Split prizes in poker history. He was also presented his first WSOP gold bracelet, the game's ultimate prize. Remarkably, this marked Tapscott's first time ever to cash in a WSOP event in Las Vegas -- proving once again that it's never too late to triumph on poker's grandest stage.

Tapscott's previous career results include two cashes on the WSOP Circuit a few years ago. He won a gold ring in the \$550 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em event played at Harrah's Tunica in January 2010. But nothing came close to the thrill of victory experienced by Tapscott as he scooped the final pot of the tournament in front of what remained of a packed gallery of spectators.

Gavin Griffin, a poker pro from Ladera Beach, California, finished as the runner-up. He barely missed what would have been his second WSOP gold bracelet victory, eight (seemingly endless) years after his first win – when, at 22, he became the youngest winner in WSOP history (at the time). Instead, Griffin had to settle for \$163,625 as a consolation prize.

The tournament also gave Phil Hellmuth yet another opportunity to pad his record as the all-time career cashes leader in WSOP history. The 11-time gold bracelet winner cashed for the second time this year, and 88th time overall – which now adds even more distance from his many challengers. However, Men "the Master" Nguyen also cashed in this tournament, which was his 74th time in-the-money. Nguyen continues to rank second to Hellmuth in that category.

A full list of players that cashed in Event #8 can be seen [HERE](#).

This was a record-smashing tournament that took three full days to complete -- plus a three-hour run over into an unscheduled fourth day. The previous attendance record had been set last year in an identical Omaha High-Low Split tournament that was held during opening weekend. The previous record was 925 entries.

This is one of two Omaha High-Low Split tournaments on the schedule. The next is the \$5,000 buy-in world championship (Event #24), starting June 11th.

Herbert Tapscott hereby becomes the seventh player to win a gold bracelet at this year's WSOP.

MEET NEW WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION – HERBERT TAPSCOTT

Name: Herbert Tapscott

Birthplace: Birmingham, Alabama (USA)

Age at Time of Victory: 71

Current Residence: Hartselle, Alabama (USA)

Marital Status: Married

Children: 4

Profession: Business Owner (Finance Company)

Background: Enlisted in United States Air Force in 1958. Stationed in Montana.

Number of WSOP Cashes: 1 (2 WSOP Circuit cashes – 1 gold ring won in 2010)

Number of WSOP final table appearances: 1

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

Best Previous WSOP finish: None

Total WSOP Earnings: \$264,400 (plus \$26,213 in WSOP Circuit earnings)

Other Interests: Private pilot

WINNER QUOTES (POST-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW)

On his goal entering the tournament: My goal was to make the money. Once I get to the money, then I want to go to the final table -- that's my goal. You know the money's nice but getting to the final table and getting a gold bracelet is what I was really after. That's what anybody that plays in any event or series, that's what they are after.

On coming back from a massive chip disadvantage when the final table was seven-handed: I've been short-stacked before and you just have to pick your spots to push it. Lady luck was on my side when I pushed it tonight.

On seniors competing against many young players at the WSOP: This 71-year-old man has a thing or two to prove. Some of us old folks can flip it up on the young folks, too.

On playing versus many tough players at the final table and being a first-timer: Oh yes. They were all very, very tough, and very aggressive. Most of the young kids are so aggressive and in the tournament I'm pretty passive. Final table, you know I can get aggressive too and that's what I had planned to do and worked out for me.

On his short bio: I left home when I was 17-years old and joined the Air Force. I stayed in the Air Force for four years, matter of fact, I was stationed in Montana. So, I learned to play poker for four years. I got out, married, had four children, worked for a finance company for several years, then I bought my home in the mid-1980s and I've been doing that ever since. I am also a private pilot. I like to fly. I just like to do about anything that anybody else can do and you know like you said when you get 71-years-old you, you don't think you're there at that age, your body says no, you can't, your mind says c'mon let's do it! So I try to do it. I try to stay focused on life itself.

On how his family and friends will react to his WSOP victory: I've had a whole bunch of texts and calls and they were watching the broadcast on (WSOP.com). They were calling and texting and wishing me good luck. I've had all my kids who have already called me. It's super good.

THE FINAL TABLE

The final table was comprised of the top nine finishers.

Only one former gold bracelet winner was present at the final table – Gavin Griffin.

All nine finalists were from the United States. This is the first time this has happened in an Omaha High-Low Split event since 2005.

Final table participants ranged in age from 28 to 71.

The runner-up was Gavin Griffin, from Ladera Ranch, CA. He is a 30-year-old professional poker player. Griffin won a gold bracelet in 2004, at the time becoming the youngest champion in WSOP history (which lasted only a short time). Griffin collected \$163,625 in prize money to go along with the \$474,370 he's previously won at the WSOP.

Final table play began at 5:45 p.m. and lasted until 3:00 a.m. The duration was 9 hours and 15 minutes.

OTHER IN-THE-MONEY FINISHERS

The top 117 finishers collected prize money, the most in history for a live Omaha High-Low Split tournament.

Tournament results are to be entered into all official records as an open event. Results are also to be included in the 2012 "WSOP Player of the Year" race.

Several former WSOP gold bracelet winners cashed in this event. They were Gavin Griffin (2nd), Allen Bari (15th), Dutch Boyd (18th), Daniel Negreanu (45th), Phil Hellmuth (52nd), Todd Brunson (61st), David Bakes Baker (63rd), Matt Hawrilenko (65th), Jeff Madsen (80th), Men "the Master" Nguyen (99th), and Robert Mizrachi (115th).

Eleven-time gold bracelet winner Phil Hellmuth cashed for second time this year and 88th time in his career, which stands as the all-time lead in that category.

Seven-time gold bracelet winner Men "the Master" Nguyen cashed – his 74th time in-the-money at the WSOP. He currently ranks second to Hellmuth in that category.

Four-time gold bracelet winner Daniel Negreanu accomplished a double cash, as his second day in this tournament corresponded with his final table appearance in Event #6 (\$1,5000 buy-in Seven-Card Stud).

Ryan Lenaghan, who finished 16th in last year's Main Event Championship, took 24th place in this tournament.

This was career cash number 38 for Tom McCormick, a.k.a. "The Shamrock Kid," who currently ranks second all-time on the list of "Most Cashes without Winning a Gold Bracelet."

Francesco "Cheech" Barbaro, from Chicago, IL, won this event last year, but he did not cash this time.

EVENT HISTORY

Omaha High-Low Split has been included on the WSOP schedule every year since 1990. Omaha (High) was first played at the 1983 WSOP. The game was phased out as player interest declined, while Omaha High-Low Split gained popularity. The last Omaha (High) tournament was held in 2003. All Omaha-related events between 1983 and 1989 were either High-Only or Pot-Limit Omaha.

The previous winners of this event were as follows:

Francesco "Cheech" Barbaro (2011)
Michael Chow (2010)
Thang T. Luu (2009)
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Alex Kravchenko (2007)
Jack Zwerner (2006)

Patrick Poels (2005)
Curtis Bibb (2004)
Frankie O'Dell (2003)
Mike Matusow (2002)
Scotty Nguyen (2001)
Howard Lederer (2000)
Mike Wattel (1999)
Paul Rowe (1998)
Deane Stonier (1997)
Men "the Master" Nguyen (1996)
Dr. Max Stern (1995)
J.C. Pearson (1994)
Erik Seidel (1993)
Eli Balas (1992)
Joe Becker (1991)
Monte Kous (1990)

The \$1,500 buy-in event has traditionally been held early on WSOP schedule. As Omaha High-Low Split gained popularity, other buy-in events were added, including buy-in levels from \$2,000 up to \$10,000.

This tournament had the distinction of being the only WSOP event of the modern era that produced a back-to-back champion. Thang Luu won his consecutive titles in 2008 and 2009.

ODDS AND ENDS

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #8, since it's the eighth gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three (actually four, with the overrun) consecutive days and nights, starting on Friday at noon and concluding Monday morning at 3 a.m.

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. Members of the public and media are permitted to shoot photos and video of the ceremony.

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

For official media photographs from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: www.pokernews.photoshelter.com

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