



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

**Official Report
Event #10
Seven-Card Stud World Championship
Buy-In: \$5,000
Number of Entries: 145
Total Net Prize Pool: \$681,500
Number of Places Paid: 16
First Place Prize: \$190,826
June 3-5, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

John Monnette Wins Seven-Card Stud World Championship

Palmdale, CA Poker Pro Bags up Second Gold Bracelet and \$190,826

"Angry John" Is All Smiles After Winning Second Title in Two Years

Huu Vinh Finishes as Runner-up – Makes Both Stud Final Tables

Sweet 16: Eight Former Gold Bracelet Winners Finish in the Top 16

Mike Sexton Posts Third Top-16 Finish at 2012 WSOP

Nine Gold Bracelets Won – 52 More at Stake!

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

John Monnette, a 30-year-old professional poker player from Palmdale, CA, won his second WSOP gold bracelet Tuesday night, making victory look far too easy. He won the \$5,000 buy-in Seven-Card Stud World Championship, collecting \$190,826 in prize money.

Monnette found himself competing against as stacked a field as has been seen in any recent WSOP event, as nearly half of the total field were former gold bracelet holders. In fact, half of the players that cashed – eight of 16 – were former title-holders.

But Monnette wasn't fazed a bit. He obliterated a final table lineup that included five-time winner Jeffrey Lisandro (also the 2009 "WSOP Player of the Year") and another former champion, Perry Friedman. However, Monnette's toughest adversary proved to be Huu Vinh, from Huntington Beach, CA, who made his second final table appearance in a stud event. He finished fifth in the \$1,500 buy-in Seven-Card Stud tournament, which ended three days earlier.

Contrary to his table image, Monnette was the player that was all smiles at the end of the night. The man sometimes called "Angry John" by many of his peers for his chiseled facade and ultra-serious demeanor at the table, breezed through a final table in about five hours, considerably less time than some estimates that predicted an all-nighter.

In addition to the three finalists, Monnette, Friedman, and Lisandro, five other former gold bracelet winners cracked the money – Eugene Katchalov, Cyndy Violette, Max Pescatori, Mike Sexton, and Nick Schulman. This was Sexton's third top-16 cash at this year's WSOP – which leads in the unofficial "deep run" category. Also of note was Katchalov's ninth-place finish. He won this event last year.

Monnette won his first gold bracelet in last year's \$2,500 buy-in Eight-Game Mix. He has been playing full time since the age of 22. His first WSOP in-the-money finish was in 2005. Monnette's victory on Tuesday gives him his second WSOP title, to go along with 22 cashes and \$833,408 in career WSOP earnings. He's also the reigning "Seven-Card Stud World Champion," at least until next year.

MEET EVENT #10 CHAMPION – JOHN MONNETTE

The 2012 World Series of Poker \$5,000 buy-in Seven-Card Stud World Champion is John Monnette, from Palmdale, CA.

Monnette is a 30-year-old professional poker player.

Monnette's first recorded tournament cash took place in 2004. Since that time, he has won more than \$1.2 million in live tournament winnings.

Monnette came close to winning a WSOP gold bracelet in 2009. He finished second in the \$2,500 buy-in Deuce-to-Seven Lowball event. He won the \$2,500 buy-in Eight-Game Mix in 2011.

For his victory, Monnette collected \$190,826 for first place.

According to official records, Monnette now has 2 wins, 4 final table appearances, and 22 in-the-money finishes at the WSOP.

Monnette currently has \$833,408 in career WSOP winnings.

Monnette is to be classified as a professional poker player, since he has been playing full-time for several years.

WINNER QUOTES (POST-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW)

QUESTION: *So, how does it feel to win again?*

MONNETTE: It feels great. I mean, it's the 5K championship event. So yeah, any bracelet feels good. This is awesome. It feels great.

QUESTION: *Your results show that you play such a wide variety of games; probably one of the stronger mixed-game players amongst the younger generation. Which games do you consider as your strongest?*

MONNETTE: I don't know if I'm part of the younger generation anymore....

[Laughter]

QUESTION: *You're kind of in between the two.*

MONNETTE: I'm getting old, but no -- I like all the draw games. I really enjoy all the draw games. A lot of them we don't even get to play at the World Series that we play. The draw games, and I still enjoy Omaha High-Low a lot. Yeah, probably just the draw games. The stud games are my weaker games, for sure.

QUESTION: *Well there you are, you have a bracelet. How did it feel coming against some of these opponents like Jeffrey Lisandro who has such a wealth of Seven-Card Stud experience? What was your strategy against him?*

MONNETTE: We came in today and there were so many good stud players like Nick Schulman was still in. He was short, fortunately, and then he got busted out. He plays great. Eugene (Katchalov) -- awesome stud player. I didn't really get to play with him. He lost a few pots and busted out before we got to the final table. When we got here to the final table, Jeff was to my immediate left, which I knew was going to be tolling. But fortunately for me, I had a lot of hands at key moments, and he was kind of handcuffed by some of the other players, and also not being able to make too many hands. He wasn't able to make too many pots; which made it difficult for him. Because of that, he got short. And once he's short, it's easier to play against him. Once he was gone, it was definitely a relief. I didn't have to worry about him to my left ever again.

QUESTION: *Yeah, you definitely noticed an interesting shift after the dinner break. You seemed to really take control of the table, and kind of just leaned on the other two opponents until they were out. What was your strategy shift coming after the dinner break?*

MONNETTE: I was just trying to see how they reacted. I just kept getting the high card and stuff; which you usually just raise. So, I was fortunate to win a couple key pots. And then from there, they were both relatively short. Once that happened, you kind of see that no one wanted to lose any big pots. And then maybe thinking about second place money. So once that happened, it was just pressure, pressure, pressure for every hand. Luckily for me, they both got really short. When we got heads up, I had an 8-to-1 or something in chips. I just accumulated so many chips. It was a good comeback.

QUESTION: *You don't play that many tournaments -- but you have 22 cashes now at the WSOP. What percentage of your tournament play are WSOP events?*

MONNETTE: It used to be something like that when I would play the WPTs and stuff. I just don't play too much No-Limit Hold'em anymore. This year, I might've hit a couple tournaments before the WSOP, and once the WSOP is over I probably won't play any more. Now it's almost 100 percent because this is pretty much the only place where you can play limit tournaments and also non-PLO and No-Limit tournaments. It's great - you play the Razz and the Mixed Games and the Deuce – all the games I really enjoy playing.

QUESTION: *Would you rather play in a field like this one where you kind of know almost everybody in there and they're all tough? Or the opposite of that – a 3,000-player field where you've got to go through the whole army of people?*

MONNETTE: I think both of them create their own difficulties. Whenever you're in a small tourney -- I just played the \$1,500 Eight-or-Better. And when you're in that, there's like 700 people in the bowl. And there are a lot of people you don't know. It's harder because you have to get through the field. You don't start with as many chips. You play against players you don't know, so you're kind of not sure. A tournament like this, I'm focused every hand, because I know almost everybody. I know the way they're going to play. I know what they're thinking. They're trying to outplay you every hand. It's very enjoyable to play poker like this. You're always thinking. You're always trying to take it to the next level. You're always trying to think what your opponent is thinking and react to that, which makes it fun. It makes it difficult. It puts a lot more pressure on you, but it's very exciting.

QUESTION: *It's very enjoyable and very exciting – explain what that would mean to somebody reading this later that doesn't really understand. You've got all this pressure on you. What do you mean by fun and exciting?*

MONNETTE: It's just like if you were a golf fan and you get to go golf with Tiger Woods or something. It's something that you enjoy doing – competing against the players that are the best at the game. Mostly I know these players from cash games. The World Series is the only time a lot of these guys get together and play tournaments. It's really fun. It's definitely a good time.

QUESTION: *I want to challenge you to one thing. If you were talking to the whole world and you wanted people to know something about you, what would it be?*

MONNETTE: When I play poker, I'm often angry and very intense. I'm always wrapped up in poker. I think that a lot of people that know me outside of poker realize I'm not always so hardcore and so angry and just focused on poker. I'm actually all right. It's just that they know me in such a competitive mode where sometimes I come across as angry and mean, where it's just me being super competitive.

QUESTION: *In fact, that was one of the things a few people said. They were shocked that John Monnette smiled.*

MONNETTE: Yeah, people look at me like "Angry John," and stuff.

QUESTION: *Do you prepare yourself, where you have game face? Is there a ritual you go through especially when you get to this stage?*

MONNETTE: No, nothing like that. I just try to stay focused -- that's all.

QUESTION: *So, you just look mean, huh?*

[Laughter]

QUESTION: *We have a picture up on the front page of WSOP.com where you are you're smiling and it looks really good.*

MONNETTE: It's because of the bracelet, man.

[Laughter]

THE FINAL TABLE

The final table was comprised of the top eight finishers.

Three former gold bracelet winners were present at the final table – Jeffrey Lisandro (5 wins) John Monette (1 win), and Perry Friedman (1 win).

Final table players came from two nations – the United States (with 1 player) and Italy (1 player). Note that Jeffrey Lisandro has residences in multiple countries, but generally likes to be categorized as an Italian player.

Final table participants ranged in age from 30 to 71.

The runner-up was Huu Vinh, from Huntington Beach, CA. He made his second final table appearance in a stud event. Vinh finished fifth in the \$1,500 buy-in Seven-Card Stud tournament, which ended three days earlier.

Final table play began at 6 p.m. and lasted until 11 p.m. The duration was about five hours.

OTHER IN-THE-MONEY FINISHERS

The top 16 finishers collected prize money.

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.

Eight former WSOP gold bracelet winners cashed in Event #10 – which was half of the number of paid players. They were John Monnette, Perry Friedman, Jeffrey Lisandro, Eugene Katchalov, Cyndy Violette, Max Pescatori, Mike Sexton, and Nick Schulman.

ODDS AND ENDS

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #10, since it's the 10th gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over five consecutive days and nights, starting on Sunday at 5 pm and concluding Tuesday evening around 10 pm.

There were five female entrants, which represented 3.4 percent of the field.

The average age of all entrants was 41.5 years – which skews about six years older than the average WSOP participant, so far.

The average age of players that cashed was 42.5 years – just slightly above the average age of entrants.

There were 10 different nations represented by players in the field. There were only two nations represented by players that cashed (16 spots were paid).

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 pm. 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

Seven-Card Stud debuted at the 1973 WSOP. Walter Clyde "Puggy" Pearson was the first-ever Seven-Card Stud champion.

Eight players in WSOP history have won two gold bracelets in Seven-Card Stud. They are Johnny Moss, Bones Berland, Marty Sigel, Ted Forrest, Mel Judah, Rod Pardey, Sr., Jeff Lisandro and Men 'the Master' Nguyen.

Artie Cobb and Men "the Master" Nguyen are the only players in WSOP history to have won three gold bracelets in Seven-Card Stud.

Other former Seven-Card Stud gold bracelet winners include two deceased poker legends -- Stu Ungar and Chip Reese.

Years ago, Seven-Card Stud was the most popular game in casinos on the East Coast, primarily in big poker markets such as Atlantic City and Foxwoods. In fact, Seven-Card Stud games outnumbered hold'em games several times over. Some East Coast casinos did not offer Hold'em, since Seven-Card Stud was the primary game of choice. But everything changed in 2003, most crediting (or blaming) the cosmic shift on Chris MoneyMaker's WSOP victory, which instantly created millions of new players who became curious about No-Limit Hold'em. Seven-Card stud has been steadily declining in popularity ever since. However, it remains popular enough to merit inclusion on the WSOP schedule. Its close cousin – Seven-Card Stud High-Low Split, a.k.a. Eight-or-Better, is actually more popular now as a tournament game. There is some talk that Seven-Card Stud (High) appears headed for Mixed-Game formats,

rather than multiple stand-alone events based on steadily declining participation. However, since both Stud events increased slightly in attendance this year, perhaps the game will endure.

Last year's tournament drew 126 entries. This year attendance increased by 19 players. However, the buy-in was reduced this year from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Last year's two Seven-Card Stud champions were Eugene Katchalov (from Ukraine, but now residing in the U.S.) and Bertrand Gropellier (from France). Katchalov managed to cash this year, finishing in ninth place.

2012 WSOP STATISTICS

Through the conclusion of Event #10 (Event #9 has yet to conclude), the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (7): Chip Saechao, Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette

France (1): Aubin Cazals

Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov

Through the conclusion of this tournament, the national origin (birthplace) of winners has been:

United States (6): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette

Thailand (1): Chip Saechao

Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov

France (1): Aubin Cazals

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of (American) winners has been:

Nevada (2): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch

Florida (2): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman

California (2): Chip Saechao, John Monnette

Illinois (1): Nick Jivkov

Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

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 (5): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Andy Bloch, Aubin Cazals, John Monnette

Semi-Pros (2): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov

Amateurs (2): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott

The streak of consecutive male gold bracelet winners is currently at 229 consecutive events, and counting. Aside from the annual Ladies Poker Championship (a non-open event), the last female to win an open WSOP event was Vanessa Selbst, back in 2008. The longest cold streak for female players had previously been 221 consecutive open events, which took place between 1982 and 1996.

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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