



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

**Official Report
Event #17
Pot-Limit Hold'em
World Championship
Buy-In: \$10,000
Number of Entries: 179
Total Net Prize Pool: \$1,682,600
Number of Places Paid: 18
First Place Prize: \$445,899
June 8-10, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

A Memorable Second Time Around for Andy Frankenberger

Frankenberger Wins 2012 Pot-Limit Hold'em World Championship

"The Pink Panther" -- Frankenberger Wears and Wins with his Lucky Pink Pants

New Yorker Defeats Phil Ivey Heads-Up – Denies Poker Great a Ninth Gold Bracelet

Frankenberger Co-Stars with Phil Hellmuth on One of WSOP's Most Historic Nights

Seventeen Gold Bracelets Won – 44 More at Stake!

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Some people are simply born to succeed in whatever they do. Andy Frankenberger is such a man.

Consider the remarkable story of the Major League Baseball game that Frankenberger attended several years ago. The Boston Red Sox were playing the New York Yankees. One of 60,000 fans crammed into Yankee Stadium that day, Frankenberger caught a foul ball. No big deal, right?

Then, he caught another.

That's right – two foul balls *in one game*. Not just any game, a Yankees-Red Sox game.

To put this into some perspective, most fans – even season ticket holders – would rarely snap up more than a single ball in an entire baseball season, if that.

But as we said, Andy Frankenberger lives a charmed life.

This is not to say he's lived an easy life, nor has he skated through what self-imposed challenges he's faced -- whether it was getting his education, an early career on Wall Street - or playing poker at the highest level.

Frankenberger is the latest World Series of Poker gold bracelet winner – make that *two-time* winner. He won the \$10,000 buy-in Pot-Limit Hold'em World Championship, overcoming several chip disadvantages along the way, not the least of which was against the player many call the best in the world.

Frankenberger collected the hefty sum of \$455,899 in prize money. However, the notion of nearly a half-million dollars awaiting him in the cashier cage seemed almost an afterthought, as Frankenberger beamed beneath the bright lights of the ESPN television stage, proudly displaying the luminous treasure from his second WSOP victory.

No doubt, the 39-year-old professional poker player is one of this year's most intriguing personalities. A native New Yorker, Frankenberger actually grew up in Massachusetts and later lived in Siberia (yes, as in Russia) for one year, as an exchange student. He learned to speak Russian fluently and remains conversant in the language. Frankenberger attended and graduated from Duke University, earning his degree in economics.

Following graduation, Frankenberger took his ambition and energy to Wall Street and succeeded as an equity derivatives trader. He made a lot of money. He loved his job. Then, during the absolute pinnacle of his success as a trader, Frankenberger did the unthinkable.

He quit.

Frankenberger's decision to leave a highly-successful and lucrative career on Wall Street reveals a lot about the man he is, and what he most values in life. Frankenberger explained his decision this way: He could have hung around for another year or two and continued to make a lot of money. But he felt he was not growing as a person. He sought new challenges.

After taking some time off and exploring the world, Frankenberger began playing tournament poker. He played in several mid-grade tournaments around the country. Much to his surprise and delight, he quickly discovered an affinity for the game. He also discovered a new passion. Indeed, the lessons he had learned from his previous life -- of risk management, maintaining emotional control, and complex problem solving – served him well at the poker table.

Two years ago, Frankenberger started playing full-time on the tournament circuit. He traveled around to major tournaments. He won two major events in 2010, in the process earning an honor as the World Poker Tour (WPT) Player of the Year. But as impressive as Frankenberger's rapid ascent seemed, he had yet to prove himself on poker's grandest stage.

That all changed last year in a \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em event when Frankenberger won his first WSOP title and the whopping sum of \$599,153 in prize money.

But incredibly, for all his seemingly instant success --- there were still detractors. Annoyed at a playing style that can only be described as unorthodox, Frankenberger's unique methodology flew in the face of just about every poker principle. He seems to bet when others thought he should fold. He'd raise when others thought he should call. He'd fold when others thought he should call.

Of course, the "others" of this Frankenberger morality tale -- loud and as obnoxious as they were and are -- remain mostly cyber-anonymous, behaving like jealous schoolboys after seeing the other guy get the girl and the gold.

And so -- preposterous as it may sound, despite winning multiple major tournaments including a WSOP gold bracelet a year ago, Frankenberger still thought he had something left to prove. He got his chance to do just that in the most challenging test in the grandest arena possible.

Frankenberger could not have written a more perfect script to not only quiet his critics but to kick them in the groin and laugh all the way to the bank. He final-tabled one of the toughest tournaments of the series, and then managed in gradual succession to topple Hoyt Corkins, Daniel Weinman, Matt Marafioti, Shaun Deeb, Manuel Bevand, Alexander Venovski, Ali Eslami, and then finally.....drum roll please....

Phil Ivey.

Indeed, with all eyes focused on "the man," Frankenberger dug in, dug down, and played the heads-up match of his life. He was down to Ivey a few times during the duel, but still managed to scratch and claw back. Finally, Frankenberger got it all in after the flop with a pair of aces. Ivey found himself on a draw for his tournament life. It was Ivey that needed to get lucky. But, that wasn't going to happen. Not against Frankenberger. Not on this night. Not with stakes this high.

Alas, a second gold bracelet now belongs to Frankenberger -- representing two WSOP victories.

Which again brings up an incredible story. Did you ever hear about the guy who went to a Yankees-Red Sox game and caught two foul balls?

MEET THE CHAMPION – ANDY FRANKENBERGER

The 2012 World Series of Poker \$10,000 buy-in Pot-Limit Hold'em champion is Andy Frankenger, from New York, NY.

Frankenger is a 39-year-old professional poker player.

Frankenger was born in New York City. However, he spent much of his childhood living in Massachusetts.

Frankenger was an exchange student for one year. He lived in Siberia, Russia. During that time, Frankenger became fluent in Russian. He decided to pursue language studies when he attended college.

Frankenger attended and graduated from Duke University. He earned degrees in economics and Russian.

Frankenger worked on Wall Street as an equity derivatives trader. He was very successful financially, and also enjoyed his work immensely.

Frankenger made what many would consider to be an unthinkable decision to leave his career. He took some time off and gradually became interested in poker.

Frankenger's first recorded live tournament cash took place in January 2010 at the Borgata Winter Open. Since that time, he has won more than \$2.5 million in live tournaments.

Frankenger has a stellar poker resume, considering that he has been active for only about four years. He won the 2010 WPT Legends of Poker Main Event. He also won the Venetian Deepstack Championship in 2010. Frankenger was also awarded the WPT's "Player of the Year" honor for 2010. To top things off, he won a WSOP gold bracelet in 2011 and again in 2012.

For this victory, Frankenger collected \$445,899 for first place.

According to official records, Frankenger now has 2 wins, 3 final table appearances, and 5 in-the-money finishes at the WSOP. He also has three WSOP Circuit cashes.

Frankenger is to be classified as a professional poker player (in WSOP records and stats).

WINNER QUOTES (POST-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW)

Question: *How do you feel at this stage of your poker career?*

Frankenger: I've had my share of controversies in my brief career, but I couldn't be any happier right now for how I've started out.

Question: *In the time since you had your first major win until now, has the amount of time that you want to play the game changed?*

Frankenger: Yeah. Well, you know, I left Wall Street having no idea that I was going to play poker professionally. With the successes, I decided to do so. And it was a great decision. I'm really enjoying myself. I'm traveling, playing poker. And I couldn't be any happier with the decision.

Question: *Does beating Phil Ivey make it any sweeter?*

Frankenger: Yeah. I'd have to say, winning a bracelet is everyone's dream, but beating Phil Ivey is like a fairytale. I can't even believe it just happened. He's such a great player; I learned a lot from playing with him at the final table. I adjusted my game. He plays unlike anyone else that I've ever played. Obviously, I have a very short career, but I tried to adjust my game to his style. And what else can I tell you?

Question: *You have a very unorthodox style. So does Ivey. What was the dynamic like, playing against someone who wasn't your standard player?*

Frankenger: You're right; my style is pretty unorthodox as well. I try to adjust to my opponent, and one of the things that I realized against Phil Ivey was, this mid-raise the button just ain't working. He's betting big and putting me in tough spots. It's better to play big pots against him because the one thing I had going for me was: he didn't want to play big flips against me. And I don't blame him. He's a better player than I am, so why should he want to flip when he can play small pots? So, I had to use that to my advantage, and just kept going pot on him and stop playing the small pots that I kept getting crushed on, and just, you know, put him to tough decisions. He was folding pretty quickly, when I was betting pots. So, you know, when I bet pot, and he fold, I showed the 5-10, just to put in his head, "Hey, I might be doing this

light. I want to get a call when I actually get the hand. I'm gonna' want him to go along." So, I just tried to adjust to that reality, which is he's gonna' outplay me post-flop, so let's just try to get in his head a little bit pre-flop.

Question: *Do you pay any attention to the people who might not understand how you play? And do you think this win will silence the people who might have some stuff to say about you?*

Frankenberger: I don't think there's anything I can do to silence the people. I mean, people love to criticize people who have success. That's part of the game. I'm a very competitive person, so I've just had to learn to deal with that. I really haven't even looked at the sites since earlier in the series, when I read some stuff that kind of annoyed me. People are saying, "Oh, this will show that the last one wasn't a fluke." Well, when I won the last one, they were saying, "Oh, this shows that the WPT player of the year isn't a fluke." So, whatever. I'm just gonna' stop reading them. And hopefully my record speaks for itself at this point. But I am a very competitive person, so it's tough. I had to work on that.

Question: *What's the most important thing that you take away from a victory like this?*

Frankenberger: Well first, I just love the competition. It's like the ultimate intellectual game, poker. You know, there's money on the line. There's odds. There's numbers. I love all that stuff. And I'm really happy that I have the ability to make a living playing poker. I'm really, really fortunate. Couldn't be any luckier to be able to do this for a living.

Question: *Which win was more satisfying – the first or the second?*

Frankenberger: Wow. Which is more satisfying? I would have to say this one. Just beating Phil Ivey. I mean, it's a tournament where a lot of people love to say, "Oh, he gets lucky. He wins flips." I mean, you're gonna' see in the final table; I lost some flips too. Pot-Limit Hold'em is not all about getting it in pre-flop. I had to battle my way here. So, given the toughness of the field...obviously in the 1500 I had pretty good players, but it's kind of like avoiding the mines in the mine field. But this tournament was just loaded with good players, and I just tried to adjust my game throughout. You know, coming away with the victory in this one just feels extra special.

Question: *What's with the pink pants?*

Frankenberger: Well, I was deciding what I was going to wear today. And I was like, "Oh, it probably won't matter. I probably won't make the final table. But if I do, it sure would be cool to have my pink pants on at that point." And the red shoes...I could've either gone with my black shoes, my running sneakers or my flip flops, so I'm like, "The red shoes it is." They're my lucky pants. What can I tell ya? If you see me at a final table, I'll have them on again.

SPECIAL SECTION: RUNNER-UP PHIL IVEY

Poker great Phil Ivey was the runner-up. He was denied what would have been a ninth WSOP gold bracelet, placing him into a tie with the late legend Johnny Moss. As it stands, Ivey still holds eight career titles. Here's a short report on Ivey:

From the look on Phil Ivey's face at the conclusion of the Pot-Limit Hold'em World Championship, one couldn't tell if he had actually won or lost.

The expression always stays the same.

Ivey's cold and calculating stare – omnipresent and always so intimidating – masked what was likely great disappointment. The poker icon, famous for once asking after a previous gold bracelet victory, "Hey, how much is the prize money? I have no idea how much it is" – demonstrated that the passion to win and succeed sometimes isn't enough. This is especially true when the player sitting at the other side of the table, in this case the ultra-unorthodox and supremely sharp Andy Frankenberger, is equally driven to win.

Afterward, Ivey walked away without saying a word. Within minutes, he'd left the building. To where? No one knows.

But Ivey will be back. He will inevitably take center stage again at some point in the future and will play at the very highest level, completely indifferent to the rest of us watching in awe of his natural talent.

ODDS AND ENDS

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #17, since it's the 17th gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three consecutive days and nights, starting on Friday at noon and concluding Sunday night.

The final table began at 4 p.m. and ended at 1:25 a.m.

Former gold bracelet winner Antonio "the Magician" Esfandiari finished in 12th place – which marked his fourth cash so far

at this year's WSOP.

Last year's gold bracelet winner Bertrand Grospellier finished in 18th place, which was his first time to cash this year, following 13 previous bust outs short of the money.

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

Pot-Limit poker made its WSOP debut in 1984, when two Pot-Limit Omaha tournaments were offered that year.

There were no Pot-Limit tournaments of any kind played at the WSOP from 1970 through 1983.

The only Pot-Limit variety that was played at the WSOP between 1984 and 1991 was Pot-Limit Omaha. Pot-Limit Hold'em action was restricted to cash games.

The first Pot-Limit Hold'em tournament at the WSOP took place in 1992. The game has been a fixture on the WSOP schedule ever since. During most years, it was one of the first tournaments on the schedule.

No player has ever won more than one WSOP gold bracelet in Pot-Limit Hold'em. There are 50 players who each hold a single gold bracelet in this form of poker.

The player with the most career WSOP cashes in Pot-Limit Hold'em events at the WSOP is Jason Lester with nine. Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, T.J. Cloutier, and Ken Flaton each have eight.

2012 WSOP STATISTICS

Through the conclusion of Event #17, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (13): 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
France (1): Aubin Cazals
Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov
Canada (1): Ashkan Razavi
The Netherlands (1): Vincent van der Fluit

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

United States (12): 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
Thailand (1): Chip Saechao
Bulgaria (1): Nick Jivkov
France (1): Aubin Cazals
Iran (1): Ashkan Razavi
The Netherlands (1): Vincent van der Fluit

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
Pennsylvania (2): Brian Hastings, David "Doc" Arsht
New York (2): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger
Illinois (1): Nick Jivkov
Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott
Ohio (1): Adam Friedman
Washington (1): Brandon Schaefer

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 (12): 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

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

Amateurs (3): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott, David "Doc" Arsht

The streak of consecutive male gold bracelet winners (or put another way – no female winner) is currently at 236 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.

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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