



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

**Official Report
Event #38
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$1,500
Number of Entries: 2,534
Total Net Prize Pool: \$3,420,900
Number of Places Paid: 270
First Place Prize: \$607,200
June 20-22, 2012**

TOURNAMENT HEADLINES

Dung "Gomer" Nguyen Wins First WSOP Gold Bracelet

Kansas Amateur Poker Player Wins \$1,500 Buy-In No-Limit Hold'em Event

Three-Minute Hallway Conversation Nets \$607,200 Win

Nguyen Wins Most Decisive Victory of Year – Victory at Final Table Never Serious in Doubt for Monster Chip Leader

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

"The \$607,200 Hallway Conversation"

Preface: Ever had a three-minute conversation worth \$607,200? Dung "Gomer" Nguyen has. Perhaps, it's too good a story -- a tale no one would possibly believe. But it really happened. Here's the incredible story of how a 37-year-old recreational poker player from Wichita, Kansas stormed into the 2012 World Series of Poker, massacred a field of 2,534 players, and walked away with more than 600 grand and a glistening new gold bracelet, which all came about due to a brief hallway conversation:

"The Butterfly Effect" is now a common term which seeks to explain the unbreakable bonds between all things in the universe. The phrase was initially coined as a simple way to illustrate a complex scientific concept.

The hypothetical question posed was, "Does a butterfly flapping its wings in Ohio eventually create a typhoon in the South Pacific?" Even a fragile butterfly has a measurable effect on air current by flapping its tiny wings. It follows then, that a storm cycle occurring many months later, thousands of miles away, is one of the many outlying by-products of the butterfly's initial action.

"The Butterfly Effect" can apply to poker, too. Unfortunately, many fail to grasp its nuances. Even the most subtle actions can affect the ultimate outcome of a poker tournament. Consider for a moment that any motion whatsoever – a laugh, a sneeze, a smile, a wave, or even the most ordinary of common distractions – can and often will cause a poker dealer to shuffle a deck of cards in a slightly different way. Just one card out of place at any time, by consequence, changes the entire sequence of cards that follow the remainder of the tournament.

Got that?

If you're wondering what any of this has to do with the most recent tournament held at the World Series of Poker, we'll get to that in a moment.

Since the actions at one table are very likely seen and heard by players at adjoining tables, even subtle movements, increasingly larger numbers of people are affected by the initial motion. Secondary tables feel the aftereffects of what happened. Moments later, the next outlying group of tables and players facilitate an unbreakable line of countless corollaries, which in a sense not only change the outcome of what happens in poker, but impact the world.

Sure, we all agree – poker is a game of skill. But it's also quite possible that an innocuous chuckle on Day One by the hypothetical player on sitting in Seat 6 at Table 278 at the 2011 World Series of Poker influenced the outcome of the tournament. In a sense, every single champion's victory is a combination of billions upon billions of figurative butterfly wings flapping since the beginning of time, combined with the skill, talent, and – dare it be said, luck – to overcome randomness.

Which now brings us to a man most people in the poker world have never heard of, until today. His name is Dung "Gomer" Nguyen.

First – a short biography: Born in Vietnam....Immigrated to the United States when three months old....The ninth of 11 children.....Initially settled down and grew up in New Orleans.....Mother died when as a young age....Moved to Wichita, Kansas to live with his older sister....Worked various odd jobs for years....Played \$1-3 limit poker in one of the local casinos.....Virtually no major tournament track record.

Three days ago, Nguyen was walking down the hallway of the tournament area at the Rio in Las Vegas. It was just a few minutes prior to noon, which was the starting time of the \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament (Event #38). Nguyen had absolutely no plans to play in the tournament that day. His intent was to sit in some cash games and perhaps enter one of the Deep Stack tournaments, which cost a few hundred dollars.

That's when Nguyen ran into his friend. It would be a moment that would literally change his life.

Nguyen revealed his friend that he had no intention to play in that day's gold bracelet tourney. The field size was much too large – more than 2,500 players were expected. The entry fee also cost a considerable sum to the recreational player on a short bankroll.

Nguyen's friend argued otherwise. He pleaded. The poker comrade explained that he would, in fact, post \$750 -- which was half the entry fee. In exchange, the two friends became business partners and agreed that the investment would be worth a 50/50 split of any prize money winnings.

The notion of winning prize money and dividing a cash prize of any substantive value seemed like only a remote possibility. After all, players have what amounts to only a ten percent chance of getting back a dime.

As things turned out, Nguyen and his investor would do slightly better than that.

Indeed, this brief conversation out in the hallway, while hundreds of other poker players raced by to their tables and seats, turned out to be an angelic flap of proverbial wings, ultimately creating an end-game typhoon out of what should have been an innocuous initial act. Nguyen's friend and the confidence he expressed, was a guardian angel, an inspiration, and butterfly that would later create a tremor.

And so, off Nguyen went.

Three days later, the situation was very different. Nguyen wasn't out in the hallway anymore. He was sitting on the ESPN Main Stage playing for the biggest pot of his life. In a six-hour display of dominance that was undoubtedly the most decisive – and perhaps easiest – victory witnessed so far at this year's WSOP, Nguyen won his very first WSOP gold bracelet and the hefty sum of \$607,200 some of which was shared with a certain rail bird watching with intense interest.

As Nguyen was busy posing for photographers in front of a massive pile of poker chips and was being interviewed by the press just moments after his unlikely victory, several poker players who were involved in other poker tournaments across the room glanced over at the newest WSOP champion. Dozens of conversations ensued. Shuffles were altered. Other discussions spilled out in the hallway.

And -- if "The Butterfly Effect" is to be believed -- poker history changed forever and ever.

Dung "Gomer" Nguyen won his first major tournament victory tonight at the World Series of Poker, in Las Vegas.

Nguyen won the \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament (Event #38). The competition drew another mammoth field size – totaling 2,534 entries. The tournament was played over a three-day period at the Rio, ending on Friday night under the bright lights of the ESPN Main Stage.

Nguyen is a 37-year-old Vietnamese-born part-time poker player. He now resides in Wichita, Kansas. For this achievement, Nguyen collected the astronomical sum of \$607,200 in prize money, plus his first WSOP gold bracelet.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – DUNG “GOMER” NGUYEN

Name: Dung “Gomer” Nguyen

Birthplace: Vietnam

Childhood: Immigrated to the U.S. a three-month old, grew up in New Orleans

Family: The 9th of 11 children (both parents deceased)

Current Residence: Wichita, Kansas

Profession: Odd jobs

Marital Status: Single

Children: None

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

Q: You almost made it look too easy. It really just was amazing. You just never were in danger it seemed.

N: Part of it was just falling right today. I don't know, maybe it was just destiny. And I wasn't even going to play, my buddy over there talked me into playing and it was like destiny or something, I don't know.

Q: Tell us more about the story, you weren't going to play. What did your buddy say to you, what was the tipping point that made you decide to play?

N: We were just walking down the hallway and my friend was like are you going to play in the tournament and I was like no I don't think so. He's like man I really think you should play. I was like ok, and he said that he would take half of my action and I said alright. Then, I just decided to play. Coming in after first day after dinner break I only had 4,000. I thought I was done. Coming back from dinner break and I doubled up three times in a row and then that's it, it was all from there. Everything just felt right.

Q: So your saying that \$600,000 in prize money -- you're like getting 300,000 and he's getting 300,000

N: Yep.

Q: Now after that point you said you know things started going your way -- you held the chip lead from the start of the final table to the finish. Can you talk about how you felt coming in, if you felt confident with holding the chip lead?

N: Well I was really nervous actually. I mean like I said before I don't play many tournaments and this is as deep as I have ever gone in any tournament, so I was pretty nervous. I came to the final table with the chip lead I know I was just going to keep playing small pot poker with them. I mean I just play my own style. I know the kids nowadays they like to shovel, pre flop, and three bet. I more like to call and I just kept the pot small and everything was just falling right.

Q: So you weren't going to play the event you obviously came out here with a bunch of your friends what were your plans and what's it like to win a bracelet with them here?

N: (Laughs) They are actually not out here for me. They came out here just to play, too. I come out here for the World Series; I come out here every year. I don't play many events I play a little bit of poker sparingly here and there and that's it. My boss comes out every year, so I come out here every year with him.

Q: How did you get the nickname “Gomer?”

N: Actually, it's just a nickname I picked up while I was in high school. A friend of mine saw I shaved my head one day and I looked like “Gomer” from the Army. He said that I looked like “Gomer Pyle,” and he just kept calling me that and now all my friends call me “Gomer.”

ODDS AND ENDS

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #38, since it's the thirty-eight gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three consecutive days and nights, starting on Wednesday at noon and concluding on Friday night at midnight.

The total duration of the final table was about six hours.

The final table included two former gold bracelet winners – Blair Hinkle and David Pham.

The runner up was Theo Tran.

The top 267 finishers collected prize 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 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.

2012 WSOP STATISTICS

Through the conclusion of Event #38, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (29): 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 Frankenger, 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; Dung "Gomer" Nguyen

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

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

United States (28): Brent Hanks, Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Andy Bloch, Herbert Tapscott, John Monnette, Brian Hastings, David "Doc" Arsht, Brandon Schaefer, Adam Friedman, Matt Matros, Andy Frankenger, 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

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

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 26 American winners has been:

Nevada (7): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David "Bakes" Baker, Chris Tryba

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 (2): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman

New York (2): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenger

Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

Ohio (1): Adam Friedman

Washington (1): Brandon Schaefer

Maryland (1): Cliff Goldkind

New Jersey (1): Brian Meinders

Oklahoma (1): Gabe Scott
Kansas (1): Dung "Gomer" Nguyen

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 (27): 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
Semi-Pros (4): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov, Brian Meinders, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman

Amateurs (6): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott, David "Doc" Arsht, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl, Dung "Gomer" Nguyen

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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