



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

**Official Report  
Event #44  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$1,000  
Number of Entries: 2,949  
Total Net Prize Pool: \$2,654,100  
Number of Places Paid: 2,949  
First Place Prize: \$464,464  
June 24-26, 2012**

## **TOURNAMENT HEADLINES**

Rocco Palumbo Wins First WSOP Gold Bracelet

23-Year-Old Poker Pro from Genoa Collects \$464,464

Palumbo Becomes Sixth Italian Gold Bracelet Winner in History

## **TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW**

2012 World Series of Poker is nearly two-thirds of the way complete. The energy and excitement of the globe's grandest gaming spectacle shows no signs of slowing down as yet another massive crowd turned out for the \$1,000 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament, classified as Event #44.

Rocco Palumbo added his name to this year's extraordinary list of gold bracelet champions, by winning his first WSOP title tonight at the Rio, in Las Vegas. He not only received the game's most coveted prize – the gold bracelet – but a whopping \$464,464 in prize money, as well.

Palumbo, a 23-year-old professional poker player from the Mediterranean seaport city of Genoa, became only the sixth Italian person in history to win a WSOP gold bracelet. He joins fellow countrymen Jeffrey Lisandro (Salerno),\* Max Pescatori (Milan), Dario Alioto (Palermo), Dario Minieri – (Rome), and Valter Farina (Genoa). Farina was the first Italian champion, who won his breakthrough victory back in 1995.

The three-day competition drew another monster-sized field. The tournament began with 2,949 entrants on Sunday, and concluded on Tuesday night on the ESPN Main Stage, in front of a large crowd and a worldwide viewing audience following final table action the WSOP.com live stream broadcast.

The runner-up was American poker player Nelson Robinson from Charlotte, NC.

*Note: Jeffrey Lisandro enjoys dual citizenship in both Italy and Australia and refers to both nations as his home.*

## **MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – ROCCO PALUMBO**

Name: Rocco Palumbo

Birthplace: Genoa, Italy

Age: 23

Current Residence: Genoa, Italy

Marital Status: Married

Children: One

Profession: Professional Poker Player

Previous Occupation: Accountant

Number of Years Attending WSOP: 2

Number of WSOP Cashes: 2

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

Best Previous WSOP finish: 81<sup>st</sup> (2012)

First-Place Prize Money: \$464,464

*Note: Palumbo will be classified as a professional poker player in WSOP records, since he does play full-time exclusively and has no other occupation.*

## INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER – ROCCO PALUMBO

**Question:** *This was great moment for you and a great moment for poker in Italy. Agree?*

**Palumbo:** Surely, it was really a good moment for me, but surely a very good moment for Italy. It's two or three of us and we didn't win a bracelet but the last one was Max Pescatori in 2008, so it's huge. I'm happy for me, but I'm very happy for Italy. It's going to be a very good thing for poker in Italy. I'm very happy about that and the future of poker in Italy.

**Question:** *How many years have you come to the World Series of Poker now?*

**Palumbo:** This is my second year.

**Question:** *How does this tournament feel differently than making other final tables, such as at the European Poker Tour?*

**Palumbo:** You have to trust me that I did feel a lot more pressure on this final table. I guess I played more relaxed here, but it was very tough to play. I mean, it's probably more stressful to play the latest stage of the WSOP, but I was more relaxed when I got to the last twelve players and last few players.

**Question:** *What do you think is more difficult – the 3,000-player field or playing against 400 or 500 much tougher players?*

**Palumbo:** It's probably harder to play with tough people, even if you get lucky they are not amateurs. Here, there are a lot more amateurs, so if you are lucky enough to get the right cards you are probably going very deep in a short amount of time. Instead you are playing much deeper in tournaments like EPT.

**Question:** *You decided to quit your job and play poker for a living. But your parents didn't like this, so talk about your family and what they think now?*

**Palumbo:** They weren't so happy. They were a little stressed about that. But they always trusted me, and they always supported me. It's been two or three years now.

**Question:** *What are your plans for the rest of the WSOP?*

**Palumbo:** I was planning on playing almost everything. Well, I mean the No-Limit Hold'em tournaments. I'm surely not playing the \$1 million buy-in One Drop!

## ODDS AND ENDS

This is the 1,002<sup>nd</sup> gold bracelet to be awarded in WSOP history. It is also the 996<sup>th</sup> WSOP event in history.

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #44, since it's the 44<sup>th</sup> gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas. The tournament was played over three consecutive days and nights, starting on Sunday at noon and concluding on Tuesday night.

The total duration of the final table was about four hours. Play began at 4 p.m. and ended at 9 p.m. (there was a one-hour dinner break).

The final table included no former gold bracelet winners.

The top 297 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 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.

## **2012 WSOP STATISTICS**

Through the conclusion of Event #44, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (32): 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, 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, Ronnie Bardah, Dung "Gomer" Nguyen, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu

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

Germany (1): Jan-Peter Jachtmann

Ukraine (1): Okelsii Kovalchuk

Italy (1): Rocco Palumbo

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

United States (30): 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, 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, Ronnie Bardah, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu

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

Germany (1): Jan-Peter Jachtmann

Ukraine (1): Okelsii Kovalchuk

Italy (1): Rocco Palumbo

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 32 American winners has been:

Nevada (8): 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

New York (4): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu

Pennsylvania (3): Brian Hastings, David "Doc" Arsht, Ben Scholl

Texas (3): Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, David "ODB" Baker

Florida (2): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman

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

Massachusetts (1): Ronnie Bardah

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 (33): 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, Ronnie Bardah, Greg Ostrander, Okelsii Kovalchuk, Henry Lu, Rocco Palumbo

Semi-Pros (5): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov, Brian Meinders, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Jan-Peter Jachtman

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](http://WSOP.com). Thank you.*

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*For official news and the latest updates from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com)*

*For statistics and historical information from the 2012 World Series of Poker, contact Nolan Dalla at: [nolandalla@aol.com](mailto:nolandalla@aol.com)*

*For official media photographs from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: [www.pokernews.photoshelter.com](http://www.pokernews.photoshelter.com)*

*For official spectator photographs from the 2012 World Series of Poker, visit: [www.imagemasterspoker.com](http://www.imagemasterspoker.com)*

*For specific media photo requests, email [dcurlley@hillmanpr.com](mailto:dcurlley@hillmanpr.com) and list "Urgent Media Request" as the subject line.*

*Note: All photos must be credited as follows: Photographer's Name/WSOP*

*The 2012 World Series of Poker's title sponsor is Jack Link's Beef Jerky. For more information, visit: [www.jacklinks.com](http://www.jacklinks.com)*