



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

**Official Report  
Event #52  
Six-Handed 10-Game Mix  
Buy-In: \$2,500  
Number of Entries: 421  
Total Net Prize Pool: \$957,775  
Number of Places Paid: 48  
First Place Prize: \$244,259  
June 29 - July 1, 2012**

## **TOURNAMENT HEADLINES**

All By Her Selbst: Vanessa Wins Second Gold Bracelet

Vanessa Selbst Triumphs in Six-Handed 10-Game Mix

Poker Superstar Collects Her Second WSOP Gold Bracelet and \$244,259

Selbst Joins Jennifer Harman as Only Two Ladies Ever to Win Two Open Events at WSOP

## **TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW**

Vanessa Selbst deserves a front page story all her own for what she accomplished on this night. She won the \$2,500 buy-in Six-Handed 10-Game Mix tournament, which was completed at the tail end of a historic day.

The Yale University Law School graduate and poker superstar from New York City defeated a tough tournament lineup of 421 players. She pocketed \$244,259 in prize money. The online star and poker icon was also presented with her second WSOP gold bracelet.

Selbst's first victory took place in 2008, in the Pot-Limit Omaha championship. Entering this year's WSOP, she had been the last female to win an open (to both sexes) event. In fact, a record 251 tournaments passed between Selbst's victory four years ago and (female) Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman winning the record-breaking Seniors World Championship two weeks ago. However, Selbst has essentially won back-to-back titles with regards to women in open events.

Remarkably, Selbst is just as the start of what could be a very long and lucrative poker career. In fact, should she continue to perform at this high a level as she's done in recent years, perhaps the word "female" will ultimately be removed from any discussion, and she will simply be known as "the best tournament player in the game today."

Selbst is one is just 20 women to win a gold bracelet in the 39-year history of the WSOP for non-Ladies Championship.

## **MEET THE LATEST WSOP CHAMPION – VANESSA SELBST**

Vanessa Selbst is a 27-year-old law school graduate and poker professional originally from Brooklyn, NY. She now resides in Las Vegas, NV.

In 2008, Selbst became the first woman to win a WSOP open event since Katja Thater in the 2007 Razz championship. She became the first woman to win another open event, since her win victory four years ago.

Selbst is a Yale University graduate. She eventually plans to work on behalf of human rights issues.

Selbst now owns two WSOP gold bracelets. Her first was in the \$1,500 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha event, back in 2008.

Selbst was formally the producer of a popular poker website called Deuces Cracked - [www.deucescracked.com](http://www.deucescracked.com). The website serves as an instruction course for poker players. She is also a poker teacher/coach and commands fees of up to \$350 per hour.

Selbst states that she believes in having a life aside from poker. She believes one can be a better poker player through what she terms "proper balance". She is also civically active and politically-minded.

*Note: Selbst will be classified as a pro poker player in WSOP records, since she plays full-time and has been in the game for about five years.*

## INTERVIEW WITH THE WINNER

**Question:** *Vanessa, obviously this is a very jubilant moment for you. But let's talk about women in poker. You were the last one to win an open event, in 2008, and you win here again. Does that get tiring -- to so often hear things about being a woman instead of just a great poker player?*

**Selbst:** No, honestly I'm happy to be able to represent women a bit. I think a lot of women see me as someone to look up to in terms of what I've accomplished. I love that I get to do that. This year has been such an incredible year for women. We're seeing how much better women in poker are getting. We just keep on getting better. I'm just really proud to be able to represent -- or to be one of many representatives of -- that group. So no, it doesn't get tiring.

**Question:** *You talk about getting better. I think that's a very scary prospect with your educational background, poker accomplishments, that maybe you're not even at your peak. Can you really get better?*

**Selbst:** Personally, everyone can always improve. I definitely have a lot of improvement to make. I've spent the last three years splitting my time between law school and poker. In the past little while, I've actually been working on my other games, like mixed games. Because, I felt like that was something that was lacking in my repertoire. So, I'm really happy of this accomplishment -- to show what I've achieved in terms of making those strides. But obviously, my No-Limit game, my PLO game, all over it can always improve and I'm just looking forward to putting in more hours and getting even better.

**Question:** *You really just dominated at the final table here. So many women have gotten close this year. Did that strengthen your result to just slam the door shut at the final table?*

**Selbst:** I don't know. In the beginning it was just getting pretty fortunate to win a bunch of big pots and scoop a couple big ones in Stud-Eight. Then, once I got the big stack and the other stacks were shorter -- in Limit Hold'em and in the blind games, I could open up a little bit more. Like in No-Limit, Limit, PLO, stuff like that -- because they obviously had to play worried about the pay jumps. Honestly, in the beginning it was just about playing my cards and after that I just ran so good that once I had the chips, it was kind of easy.

**Question:** *You also became the sixth woman to win multiple bracelets in an open buy-in event today. How does it feel to join that class with those other five women?*

**Selbst:** I feel really honored to be part of that group of women and to have won multiple bracelets. Obviously, those are some of the best women to have ever played the game and I'm just really happy to be a part of that group.

**Question:** *Has this summer been a success for you prior to this event?*

**Selbst:** I've made a few deep runs. I got fourth place in the first event of the Series and then I cashed the heads-up. I went deep in the last \$1,500, but busted in the final three tables. It would have been a success money-wise -- I was going to have a winning WSOP either way. But making a couple deep runs and not getting the bracelet would have been really disappointing. I came into the Series and people were asking me, 'What are your goals for the Series?' I said, 'My goal is to make two final tables and win at least one bracelet.' And now I've accomplished those goals. So, I think it's been a successful summer.

**Question:** *Those of us who know you and have seen your interviews -- you've talked about this interest you have aside from this game. Fighting for justice; doing things with your legal background that could help other people. Does the fact that you're very successful at this make that harder now? Or does it make it easier?*

**Selbst:** It's made it easier for me, because I'm fortunate that I've done well enough in my career that I can take time off when I want to. I don't feel like I'm pressured to play every single tournament that comes up, because maybe I'm in a tight situation. So, that's really fortunate that I have that time. Also, I have a lot of goals of things to do with my money

involving different charity work. So, every time I win a tournament, I just think that's more money that I can eventually put into that. That makes me very happy.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

This is the 1,011<sup>th</sup> gold bracelet to be awarded in WSOP history. It is also the 1,005<sup>th</sup> WSOP event in history.

This was classified as WSOP schedule Event #52, since it's the 52<sup>nd</sup> gold bracelet of 61 to be awarded this summer in Las Vegas.

The final table included four former gold bracelet winners – Chris Bjorin (2 wins), Scott Clements (2 wins), Vanessa Selbst (now, 2 wins) and Michael Saltzburg (1 win).

The runner-up was Michael Saltzburg, an orthopedic surgeon from Hollidaysburg, PA. He won his gold bracelet back in 2003.

The top 48 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 #52, the nationality of gold bracelet winners has been:

United States (40): 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, Joey Weissman, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, Steven Loube, Kenny Hsiung, Greg Hobson, Pete Vilandos, Yen Dang, Vanessa Selbst

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 (36): 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, Joey Weissman, Michael “the Grinder” Mizrachi, Steven Loube, Kenny Hsiung, Greg Hobson, Vanessa Selbst

Canada (2): Simon Charette, Timothy Adams

Vietnam (2): Dung “Gomer” Nguyen, Yen Dang

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

Germany (1): Jan-Peter Jachtmann

Ukraine (1): Okelsii Kovalchuk

Italy (1): Rocco Palumbo

Greece (1): Pete Vilandos

Through the conclusion of this event, the home state of the 40 American winners has been:

Nevada (8): Brent Hanks, Andy Bloch, Randy Ohel, Joe Cassidy, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Carter Phillips, David “Bakes” Baker, Chris Tryba

New York (6): Matt Matros, Andy Frankenberger, Greg Ostrander, Henry Lu, Joey Weissman, Vanessa Selbst

California (4): Chip Saechao, John Monnette, Phil Hellmuth, Max Steinberg

Texas (4): Ylon Schwartz, Larry Wright, David “ODB” Baker, Pete Vilandos

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

Florida (3): Leif Force, Cory Zeidman, Michael “the Grinder” Mizrachi

Ohio (2): Adam Friedman, Kenny Hsiung

Alabama (1): Herbert Tapscott

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

Georgia (1): Steven Loube

Alaska (1): Greg Hobson

Colorado (1): Yen Dang

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 (39): 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, Joey Weissman, Michael "the Grinder" Mizrachi, Kenny Hsiung, Greg Hobson, Yen Dang, Vanessa Selbst

Semi-Pros (6): Cory Zeidman, Nick Jivkov, Brian Meinders, Allyn Jaffrey-Shulman, Jan-Peter Jachtman, Pete Vilandos

Amateurs (7): Chip Saechao, Herbert Tapscott, David "Doc" Arsht, Cliff Goldkind, Ben Scholl, Dung "Gomer" Nguyen, Steven Loube

*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)*

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