



2016 WSOP OFFICIAL REPORT

MICHAEL GAGLIANO WINS \$2,500 BUY-IN NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM EVENT

New Jersey online poker pro collects \$448,463 top prize in Event #25

Another 1,000-plus player field jams the 2016 WSOP

Daniel Cooke finishes as the runner up

Three former world champions cash – including Joe Cada, Ryan Riess, and Jonathan Duhamel.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION

Name: Michael Gagliano

Birthplace: New York, NY

Age: 31

Current Residence: Glen Gardner, NJ

Marital Status: Married

Children: 1

Profession: Poker Player / Instructor

Number of WSOP Cashes: 10

Number of WSOP Final Table Appearances: 2

Number of WSOP Gold Bracelet Victories (with this tournament): 1

Best Previous WSOP Finish: 7th (2014)

Total WSOP Earnings: \$599,761

Personal Facts: Graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in geology

Winner Quote:

"I've played plenty of tournaments before. It's all just a matter of adjusting. You have to play the tougher aggressive players differently than you play against your recreational players who are taking their one shot. It's all about adjusting."

Michael Gagliano is the newest member of poker's gold bracelet club.

The 31-year-old poker pro from Rockaway, NJ won the \$2,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament, which was played over three days and nights and just concluded on the ESPN main stage at the Rio in Las Vegas. For this most impressive come-from-behind victory. Gagliano collected \$448,463 in prize money, making this the biggest live win of his career.

"I've never won a live tournament before, at least nothing on this scale before," Gagliano said afterward. "I came close a few times and definitely wanted to get a win, so it's nice to get that over and done with."

Gagliano is a poker professional who plays full-time in New Jersey. That state legalized the Internet version of the game about three years ago. He's a sponsored pro with the Borgata website.

Prior to playing poker, Gagliano was a college student and then a teacher. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in geology. Then, he spent two years in the public school system before taking up poker full time for most of his income. Gagliano started playing the game about ten years ago, while a senior in college.

Gagliano is also in demand as a poker instructor. A few years ago, he became the owner and instructor of a poker training site called PremiumPokerCoaching.com. No doubt, he'll likely pick up a few additional students and clients after this victory.

The poker pro and teacher won his victory by coming out on top at a final table which included a mix of pros and amateurs, alike. Perhaps the two biggest names in the finale were Shankar Pillai, a former gold bracelet winner and Darryll Fish, the local Las Vegas poker pro and tournament regular.

The starting chip counts and seat assignments were as follows:

1. Daniel Cooke -- 1,425,000 (47 bb)
2. Niall Farrell -- 750,000 (25 bb)
3. Michael Gagliano -- 1,000,000 (33 bb)
4. Zu Zhou -- 2,400,000 (80 bb)
5. Darryll Fish -- 1,860,000 (62 bb)
6. Michael Laake -- 2,160,000 (72 bb)
7. Remi Castaignon -- 600,000 (20 bb)
8. Shankar Pillai -- 1,750,000 (58 bb)
9. Gavin O'Rourke -- 875,000 (29 bb)

Gagliano ranked seventh in chips when the eight-hour finale began. He made a remarkable move up the money ladder. The final moment of triumph or disappointment,

depending on perspective, came when Gagliano scooped the final pot of the tournament, holding A-9, which made a pair of nines against Daniel Cook who finished as the runner up. Cook, 53, who works in sales and resides in Parker, TX earned \$277,128 as a consolation prize.

Ironically, two years ago in this same event, Gagliano came in seventh, which was his only other WSOP final table appearance.

This tourney attracted 1,045 entrants which created a prize pool in excess of \$2.5 million. The top 157 finishers collected prize money.

Aside from the winner, here's a brief report of the other top finishers who made the final table:

Second Place: Daniel Cooke, originally from Hartford, CT and now residing in Parker, TX came in second. He fought back from a deep deficit and made things interesting, before losing on the final hand with K-Q versus A-9. Cooke cashed for \$277,128 in what was only the second time he's finished in-the-money in a series event. He also cashed in last year's "Millionaire Maker."

Third Place: Shankar Pillai, from Commack, NY rode a roller coaster at the final table, before busting out in third place. He was aiming for what could have been a second gold bracelet victory, nine years after winning a WSOP event back in 2007. Pillai received \$196,119 as his payout.

Fourth Place: Remy Castaignon, from Sait Aunix-Langros, France made quite an impact in what was his first time ever to cash in a WSOP tournament. Castaignon was ranked second in chips for a while but then took a tough beat in the end and came in fourth place in his series debut. However, he has previously won a European Poker Tour event. Castaignon collected \$140,596.

Fifth Place: Zu Zhou, cashed for the fourth time as the WSOP and posted his first six-figure payout by coming in fifth place. He collected \$102,120 in prize money.

Sixth Place: Niall Farrell, from Lugar Agrshin, UK finished in sixth place. This marked his 25th time to cash at the WSOP. Farrell came close to winning a gold bracelet three years ago, coming in second in a \$3K NLHE event. This was his second occasion to go deep and make a final table. His payout was \$75,164.

Seventh Place: Michael Laake, from Punta Gorda, FL is a former poker dealer who now plays full time. He's cashed several times at the WSOP and on the WSOP circuit. This was his highest finish at the annual summer classic, which paid \$56,073.

Eighth Place: Darryll Fish, from Las Vegas, NV is one of the better-known poker pros acknowledged as one of the best player yet to win a gold bracelet. He has now cashed

30 times in WSOP events. Fish now has two eighth-place finishes at this year's series, after coming the same position in the \$565 buy-in PLO event, which drew 2,483 players. Fish crossed the \$600,000 mark in WSOP earnings by adding \$42,405 to his poker bankroll.

Ninth Place: Gavin O'Rourke, from Portlaoise, Ireland now has ten WSOP cashes, all accumulated since his debut in-the-money finish two years ago. This was his second time to make a final table, after coming in fifth in an event in 2014. Ninth place paid \$32,514.

This was the 25th official event on this year's schedule. This leaves 44 gold bracelet events still to be played.

OTHER NOTABLE IN-THE MONEY FINISHERS:

Joe Cada, a two-time gold bracelet winner and the 2009 world poker champion (second win was in 2014), cashed in this event in 29th place. He is now within \$10,000 of reaching the \$10 million mark for career WSOP earnings.

Ryan Welch, a gold bracelet winner (2010, cashed in 61st place.

J.J. Liu, an inductee in the Women in Poker Hall of Fame, cashed for the 33rd time in her poker career, finishing in 66th place.

Kathy Liebert, a gold bracelet winner (2004), cashed for the 42nd time in her poker career, finishing in 67th place.

Sam Soverel, who won his first gold bracelet at this year's WSOP, cashed in 71st place.

Ben Yu, a gold bracelet winner (2015), cashed in 78th place.

Ryan Riess, a gold bracelet winner and the 2014 world champion, finished in 79th place.

Daniel Negreanu, a six-time gold bracelet winner and member of the Poker Hall of Fame, finished in 87th place.

Layne Flack, a six-time gold bracelet winner, finished in 99th place.

Jonathan Duhamel, a three-time gold bracelet winner and the 2010 world poker champion, finished in-the-money.

Notable players who finished beyond the top 100 included – James Akenhead, Yevgeniy Timoshenko, Ted Lawson, Matt Waxman, Davide Suriano, Thomas Cannuli,

Bart Lybaert, from Belgium, became the first player at this year's series to cash seven times. He also has two final table appearances, including a runner-up finish in Event #4.

Tom McCormick, a.k.a. "the Shamrock Kid," cashed for the 57th time. He currently ranks second behind Tony "Top Cat" Cousineau as the player with most WSOP in-the-money finishes without a gold bracelet victory.

FUN FACTS:

The ages of participants ranged from 21 to 79. The eldest player in the field was Thomas Sheets. The average age of players was 37.

The breakdown of player nationalities for this event was 753 Americans and 292 players from elsewhere. The top five nations represented was the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, and Russia.

The breakdown of participants by gender was 97.5 percent males and 2.5 percent females.

EVENT DIRECT LINKS:

For this event's official final results (listing all players who finished in-the-money), please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/results.asp?grid=1232&tid=14925>

For Michael Gagliano's official player profile page, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/playerProfile.asp?playerID=60933>

For the live reporting logs for this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/updates.asp?grid=1232&tid=14925>

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