



## 2016 WSOP OFFICIAL REPORT

### ANDREY ZIACHENKO WINS \$1,500 BUY-IN LIMIT DEUCE-TO-SEVEN TRIPLE DRAW LOWBALL

Russian collects \$117,947 top prize in Event #34

For Ziachenko, nine years of playing at the WSOP finally pays off

Jameson Painter proves tough, but finishes as runner up

Belgian player Bart Lybaert cashes for the eighth time at this year's series – currently on pace to break record for most cashes in single year.

### MEET THE LATEST WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION

Name: Andrey Ziachenko

Birthplace: Moscow, Russia

Age: 38

Current Residence: Moscow, Russia

Profession: Head of sales/marketing

Number of WSOP Cashes: 32

Number of WSOP Final Table Appearances: 5

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

Best Previous WSOP Finish: 3<sup>rd</sup> (2011)

Total WSOP Earnings: \$1,160,546

Personal Facts: Graduate of Moscow State University

Winner's Quote:

*"The last three years, I have been playing a lot more Limit poker. At first it was No-Limit, but now we play lots of Limit cash games in Russia. The result of these games in Russia is making us better here now (at the WSOP)."*

Andrey Zaichenko is the newest member of poker's gold bracelet club.

The 38-year-old sales and marketing executive from Moscow, Russia won the \$1,500 buy-in Deuce-to-Seven Triple-Draw Limit Lowball tournament, which was played over three days and nights and just concluded on the at the Rio in Las Vegas.

Zaichenko collected \$117,947 in prize money, making this one of the biggest wins of his career. He became the 11<sup>th</sup> Russian gold bracelet winner in history, and 13<sup>th</sup> overall (two Russians have two wins each). He also became the second Russian winner this year, two days after Viatcheslav Ortynskiy won the \$3,000 buy-in Six-Handed Pot-Limit Omaha title.

"In Russia, we have so many good players," Ziachenko said afterward. "I am just so glad to have my name now up there along with them."

Zaichenko won his victory by coming out on top at a final table which included an international contingent of players. Nations among the top eight included – the United States, Russia, Israel, and the Ukraine. However, the biggest obstacle proved to be Jameson Painter, a Las Vegas poker pro who put up a bitterly tough fight, finishing second.

The chip lead swung back and forth a few times as players realized a short run of cards would probably determine the outcome. Only about 35 big blinds were on the table when the last hand was dealt.

The moment of triumph came when Zaichenko scooped the final pot of the tournament after two hours of heads up play, holding off yet another big comeback by Painter. In deference to the runner up, after losing most of his chips early in the day, he put up quite a fight and still managed to move several places up the money ladder after being very low on chips.

"I was so happy to win against (Painter). There were so many good players in this tournament, but to win the way I did against him makes me very happy," Zaichenko. "He really knew what was going on, since he called my bluffs and he won so many hands when he had to."

Back in Moscow, Ziachenko primarily plays in private (home) games, which have become increasingly common there. In fact, many of his friends were present for the victory, having made the trip all the way from Moscow to Las Vegas.

"The bracelet is the goal which I wanted. This is so emotional for me. I cannot express what this means," Ziachenko said.

This tourney attracted 358 entrants which created a prize pool totaling \$483,300. The top 54 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:** Jameson Painter, from Las Vegas, finished as the runner up. \$72,878. This was his 18<sup>th</sup> time to cash at the series, and fifth final table appearance. His WSOP resume now includes a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Third Place:** Guy Hareuveni became the highest finish at this year's WSOP from Israel by coming in third. He pocketed \$46,992. This was the software engineer from Haifa's second time to cash in an event here after making the money in last year's Ten-Game Mix.

**Fourth Place:** Aleksandr Vinskii, from St. Petersburg, Russia cashed for the fourth time at the WSOP which this deep run. He earned \$31,099.

**Fifth Place:** Adam Spiegelberg, from Las Vegas, NV cashed for the fifth time at the WSOP and made his second final table appearance. The former attorney settled for \$21,139.

**Sixth Place:** Andril Nadieliaiev, from the Ukraine, finished in sixth place, which was his fourth time to cash at the WSOP. He was paid \$14,769.

**Seventh Place:** Andrew "A.J." Kelsall, from Tampa, FL finished in seventh place, which was his 20<sup>th</sup> time to cash at the series. He earned \$10,614. He's also a WSOP Circuit gold ring winner. Kelsall was formally a golf pro.

**Eighth Place:** Daniel Zack, from Princeton, NJ was the first player eliminated off the official final table of eight. This was his seventh time to cash at the series, earning him \$10,614.

This was the 34<sup>th</sup> official event on this year's schedule. This leaves 35 gold bracelet events still to go in at the 2016 WSOP.

#### **OTHER NOTABLE IN-THE MONEY FINISHERS:**

Andy Bloch, a gold bracelet winner (2012), finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place. He moved close to the \$3 million mark in career WSOP earnings.

Vanessa Selbst, a three-time gold bracelet winner (2008, 2012, 2014), finished in 20<sup>th</sup> place. She now has more than \$2.1 million in career WSOP earnings.

Billy Baxter, a seven-time gold bracelet winner (1975, 1979, 1982, 1982, 1987, 1993, 2002) and a member of the Poker Hall of Fame, finished in 27<sup>th</sup> place.

Bart Lybaert, from Meihelen, Belgium cashed for the eighth time at this year's series. He is on pace to break the record for most cashes in a single year.

Blair Rodman, a gold bracelet winner (2007), cashed in this event. He now has 51 in-the-money finishes lifetime at the WSOP.

The 2004 world poker champion Greg Raymer cashed in this event.

Erik Seidel, an eight-time gold bracelet winner and member of the Poker Hall of Fame, cashed in this event. This marked his 96<sup>th</sup> career in-the-money finish, which currently ranks second all-time.

Other notables who cashed included – Matt Waxman, Terrence Chan, and Nam Le.

### **FUN FACTS:**

Deuce-to-Seven Lowball has been called “the purest form of poker.” This especially applies to the No-Limit variety, which was first spread at the WSOP in 1973, which was the first year for non-Main Event tournaments. Limit Ace-to-Five Draw was the close cousin of this game, which was also spread early on, but then waned in popularity. The Triple-Draw variety debuted much later in 2007.

### **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=14934>

For Andrey Zaichenko's official player profile page, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/playerprofile.asp?playerID=44680>

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

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/updates.asp?grid=1232&tid=14934>

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