



## 2015 WSOP OFFICIAL REPORT

### **ADRIAN BUCKLEY WINS 2015 “MILLIONAIRE MAKER” CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Electrical Engineer Pulls Off Shocking Victory in 7,275-Player Field and Collects \$1,277,193**

**Four Gold Bracelet Winners Make Final Table, and Exit 9th, 8th, 7th, and 6th**

**Another Huge Turnout in 2015 Ranks as Sixth-Largest Live Tournament of All-Time**

### **MEET THE LATEST WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION**

Name: Adrian Buckley

Birthplace: Westminster, CO (USA)

Age: 27

Current Residence: Dacono, CO (USA)

Marital Status: Single

Children: None

Profession: Electrical Engineer

Education: B.S. Electrical Engineering from University of Colorado

Number of WSOP Cashes: 1

Number of WSOP Final Table Appearances: 1

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

Best Previous WSOP Finish: None

Total WSOP Earnings: \$1,277,193

Personal Facts: First time to cash in a WSOP event of any kind

Adrian Buckley, a 27-year-old part-time poker player from Dacono, Colorado picked the perfect tournament to play at the right time and the ideal place for his first-ever World Series of Poker career in-the-money finish. In his debut appearance upon the global poker stage, he made the most of his first-time opportunity, becoming the 2015 “Millionaire Maker” champion.

Buckley won the \$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em event, which included five exciting days of poker action, and drew a door-busting 7,275 entrants. This was the sixth-largest live tournament in poker history. With the “Colossus” event completed just a week earlier, this means that the 2015 World Series of Poker has already produced two of the six largest live tournaments ever held.

The prize pool for this event reached nearly eight figures, tallying at a whopping \$9,821,250. Buckley's share of the total pot came to \$1,277,193.

Remarkably, both of the record-sized tournaments held so far were won by two players who had never previously cashed in a WSOP (Las Vegas) event before. Cord Garcia, The Colossus champion, finished in the money for the first time, outlasting nearly 23,000 players on the way to a \$638,880 payout. Buckley also made his first visit to the cashier's window in this tournament, collecting the biggest cash prize so far of anyone through the end of 19 events completed, so far.

"This is one-hundred percent surreal," Buckley admitted afterward, barely able to contain his enthusiasm as he was surrounded by friends and supporters. "This has been a crazy few days. It was the run of the century."

Given the long odds Buckley faced at various points during this tournament, his recollection of the course of events is hardly an exaggeration. Entering Day Three, the eventual winner had only 6 big blinds in his stack. Coming into today's session, he had only 10 big blinds. Then, when playing heads up, he overcame the chip disadvantage at least three times on the way to victory. Indeed, this win was unlikely as they come, especially given the pedigree of competition later in the tournament.

For a tournament of such a size, it was highly unusual to see four gold bracelet winners make the final table. Most gargantuan fields produce finales dominated by lesser-known players, and relatively few superstars. However, this table was a notable exception with Erick Lindgren (2 wins), Mike Sexton (1 win), Justin Pechie (1 win), and David Miscikowski (1 win) sitting among the final nine. That said, all four busted out early in succession, as none finished higher than 6th place.

"I'd never been in this spot before," Buckley said when asked about being nervous in his first appearance on the ESPN Main Stage. "It was a little nerve-wracking. But then I took it one step at a time and things got easier. After a while, I realized 'it's just a poker game,' and that's when I really felt comfortable. But I never even looked at the prize money until we were three-handed.

Arguably, the most decisive hand of the tournament took place heads-up when Buckley was down by nearly 2 to 1 in chips and was dealt A-K. He was all-in against Javier Zarco from Spain, who tabled A-3. When a 3 flopped, that making it appear Zarco was destined for victory. However, a King on the turn evaporated Zarco's hope of winning then and there, and reversed the players' chip counts.

After some jousting back and forth for another 20 hands or so, Buckley won the final hand of the night with pocket 10s versus Zarco's pocket 6s. The higher pair held up, giving Buckley the win, as a wave of supporters poured out of the gallery and onto the stage to congratulate poker's newest millionaire.

"I really didn't think I'd be here," Buckley said. "I mean, getting through 7,000 people. It's not something you think about until it happens. I hoped to run super deep, and knew I had the skill to get here. But it's just surreal to live out the dream."

Buckley is a graduate of the University of Colorado. He is employed as an electrical engineer by defense contractor Lockheed-Martin. Buckley loves his work and plans to go in when he returns home to Colorado. However, he will also pursue his poker dream here during the remainder of the series.

"When I was a student, I never had much money. But I worked and saved and played cash games back home," Buckley said. "I came here and planned to play ten events, never dreaming that I'd win this one. Now, I will definitely play the Main Event. But after this, it's back to work for me."

Here are the top nine finishers, each who made the official final table, which clocked in about nine hours of total playing time:

**Second Place:** Javier Zarco, making only his second career cash at the WSOP in Las Vegas (in addition to three WSOP Circuit events), collected the biggest cash prize of his career to date, for coming in 2nd. The runner up finish was worth \$791,690. Zarco is a 24-year-old MBA graduate from Madrid, Spain. He came close to joining his fellow countrymen Carlos Mortensen and Adrian Mateos as the only Spanish players who have won titles at the WSOP.

**Third Place:** Oliver Busquet, a 33-year-old poker pro from New York City finished 3rd. He had the chip lead a few times when play was three-handed, but lost some critical confrontations late and ended up with \$589,569 to compensate for the missed opportunity at what would have been a first gold bracelet. This marked Busquet's 24th time to cash at the WSOP, and rocketed his earnings up to more than \$1.2 million since his first cash here back in 2008.

**Fourth Place:** Randy Pfeifer, a 44-year-old retiree from Lancaster, NY finished 4th. He pocketed \$441,465, which was more than four times the total earnings he'd enjoyed up to this point in 9 previous cashes.

**Fifth Place:** Mohammad "Sheddy" Siddiqui, a 37-year-old poker pro from Pembroke Pines, FL took 6th place. He earned \$333,038, by far the biggest cash of his poker career which began in 2010.

**Sixth Place:** David Miscikowski, from San Diego, CA outlasted more players than ever before, but missed out on his opportunity to win a second gold bracelet within two years. Miscikowski, winner of last year's \$5,000 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tourney, added \$253,093 this time to his poker bankroll.

**Seventh Place:** Erick Lindgren, a.k.a. "E-Dog," was aiming for what might have been a third gold bracelet in this event, but ended up finishing 7th. Lindgren, winner in 2008 and 2013, couldn't establish any consistency despite being aggressive early on, and settled for a payout worth \$193,675. This marked Lindgren's 42nd time in-the-money, pushing his career WSOP earnings to more than \$3.4 million.

**Eighth Place:** Justin Pechie, a 30-year-old poker pro from Thompson, CT finished 8th. He pocketed \$149,283 in what was his 22nd cash at the series. Pechie won his gold bracelet in 2011 in the \$2.500 No-Limit Hold'em Shootout.

**Ninth Place:** Mike Sexton, one of the game's most popular personalities and best goodwill ambassadors finished in 9th place. The Poker Hall of Famer, Tournament of Champions winner, and gold bracelet winner from 1989 added to his long legacy with his 61st career cash at the series. Sexton earned \$115,890 in prize money.

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

In addition to Lindgren and Sexton, among the gold bracelet winners who cashed in this event were Steve Zolotow, Blair Hinkle, Hoyt Corkins, Justin Bonomo, Larry Wright, Brian Rast, Ronnie Bardah, Jeff Madsen, and others.

#### **FUN FACTS:**

The average age of players was 38 years/8 months, which was slightly higher than average.

There were 6,961 male and 314 female entrants.

There were 5,853 American players and 1,422 entrants from other countries.

There were 334 players who played in this as their first WSOP event.

The oldest player was James Winter, at age 83.

**EVENT DIRECT LINKS:**

For this event's results, visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/results.asp?grid=1136&tid=14216>

For Adrian Buckley's official player profile page, visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/playerprofile.asp?playerID=146130>

For the Live Reporting Log for this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/updates.asp?grid=1136&tid=14216>

For photos from this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/photos.asp?grid=1136&tid=14216>

For official winner photo, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/pdfs/reports/14216-winner-photo.jpg>

For the live stream archive of this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/videos/?vcat=16>