



2015 WSOP OFFICIAL REPORT

EVENT #37: \$10,000 buy-in Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em Championship

ENTRIES: 259

PRIZE POOL: \$2,434,600

FIRST PLACE PRIZE: \$657,351

PLACES PAID: 30

Byron Kaverman Finally Comes Up Big at the World Series of Poker

Tournament Pro with Millions in Live Winnings Adds \$657,351 to His Poker Bankroll

Kaverman Tops Short-Handed Specialist Doug Polk in Heads-Up Duel, Tops One of WSOP's Toughest Events

MEET THE LATEST WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION

Name: Byron Kaverman

Birthplace: Columbus, OH (USA)

Age: 29

Current Residence: Byron Kaverman

Marital Status: Single

Children: None

Profession: Professional Poker Player (Online/Live Action/Tournaments)

Number of WSOP Cashes: 20

Number of WSOP Final Table Appearances: 2

Number of WSOP Gold Bracelet Victories: 1

Best Previous WSOP Finish: 9th (2015)

Total WSOP Earnings: \$1,158,524

Personal Facts: Byron Kaverman now has in excess of \$1.1 million in career WSOP earnings

[Note: All statistics above include the results of this tournament]

Byron Kaverman may originally be from Columbus, Ohio. But his real home over the past four years has been living out of a suitcase in various hotel rooms and rented apartments all over the country and the world, playing poker and entering major tournaments.

Prior to the 37th gold bracelet event on the 2015 World Series of Poker schedule, Kaverman earned more than \$4.2 million in live tournament winnings alone, not counting his massive wins in online tournaments which occurred mostly between 2004 and 2010. Yet for all his poker success, Kaverman had not until this memorable date enjoyed widespread public acclaim and recognition apart from a win at a preliminary PCA event in the Bahamas held a few years ago and two big wins at the Aria's High Roller series earlier this year. In short, Kaverman seemed way overdue for a big time victory that would put him into the same category with many of his peers, with gold bracelets.

He finally got his due, in one of the most prestigious events in tournament poker.

Of all the 68 gold bracelet tournaments on the 2015 World Series of Poker schedule, player for player, the \$10,000 buy-in Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em event may be very the toughest.

However, Kaverman didn't seem to have much trouble with such a blistering field of opponents, coming out on top in the 37th tournament of this year's summer series. The poker pro conquered a field of 259 players, absolutely loaded to the rafters with online pros, high-stakes cash game players, and former gold bracelet winners. He collected \$657,351 for first place. This was one of the best paydays ever for the tournament veteran who has experienced most of the highs and lows the game has to offer over his 11-year career as a full-time player.

The tournament was played over three days, concluding on the ESPN Main Stage, which was live streamed over WSOP.com.

This marked Kaverman's 20th time to cash at the WSOP, and second final table appearance this year after taking 9th place in a previous event. Kaverman's tournament resume is certainly loaded with cashes and deep runs, but this victory was undoubtedly the most prestigious of all, and long overdue.

“It was absolutely thrilling to win. This is one I was really motivated for,” Kaverman said afterward in a post-tournament interview. “It definitely has one of the toughest lineups there is....I would rank this final table as definitely the toughest.”

The final table included three gold bracelet winners – Doug Polk, Paul Volpe, and the latest inductee into the fraternity of winners, Sam Greenwood, who won his first title last week. However, none of these journeymen could out-muscle Kaverman off his chip stack.

Kaverman was clearly moved by the deep sense of accomplishment, particularly after coming so close in other events, particularly a big World Poker Tour championship a few years ago in which he came in second. With this victory, he moves to in excess of \$1.1 million in WSOP earnings, and close to \$5 million overall in live tournament events. That doesn't even count his online feats.

“I just try to win tournaments,” he said. “That's all I can do, play my game and hope the wins come.”

The runner up was equally compelling for what he's done in poker in recent years. Doug Polk, the second-place finisher is perhaps best known as a short-handed and heads-up specialist. A few months ago, he completed in the widely-covered match of “Brains versus Machines” put on by Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Polk and a group of three other poker players defeated the software program which was thought might revolutionize poker and perhaps even pose a threat to the game's future existence. However, his opponent his time (Kaverman) proved to be better than any machine developed by a math professor. This was Polk's third cash of the series.

Also worth noting was Paul Volpe's sixth-place finish. He's the first player of this year's series to make three final table appearances (2nd, 2nd, and now 6th). This was his fifth cash at the 2015 series, putting him in increasingly better position to win WSOP “Player of the Year honors.” He's now won more than \$500,000 although he's yet to win a second gold bracelet. Volpe picked up his first WSOP win last year and is arguably the hottest player at this series over the past two years.

Following Kaverman's finish in the top spot, the descending order of results was as follows:

Second Place: Doug Polk, a poker pro from Las Vegas finished in 2nd place. He now has 8 WSOP cashes, and more than \$750,000 in winnings. Polk won his gold bracelet last year in the Turbo NLHE event. This time, he actually earned more money for this second-place finish, which paid out \$406,261.

Third Place: Fedor Holz, originally from Germany and now living in Vienna, Austria ended up in 3rd place following a seven-hour stay at the finale table. Holz, age 27, was

in serious contention for a while, but went card dead against two aggressive opponents and was eliminated with a payout totaling \$268,463.

Fourth Place: Thomas Muehloecker, from Vienna Austria finished in 4th place. He's a 28-year-old poker pro who made his ninth WSOP cash, achieving the highest payout of his career at \$182,448. Muehloecker has now cashed at least once each year at the series since 2012.

Fifth Place: Sam Greenwood is enjoying a breakout WSOP this year, with four cashes, two final table appearances, and one win. He finished 5th in this tournament, after hovering around the chip lead during days two and three. Greenwood, from Toronto, won the \$1K buy-in NLHE tourney just a week earlier and came close to a second gold bracelet victory. Instead, he settled for \$126,745 in prize money.

Sixth Place: Paul Volpe finished in 6th place. The Philadelphia-based poker pro is having a huge WSOP, this being his fifth time to cash in 2015. Volpe added \$89,984 to his poker bankroll and continued to increase his position in contention for the Player of the Year honors.

Seventh Place: Rounding out the official final table for this format was Kenneth Fishman, the owner of a mattress company from Tampa, FL. Fishman had a somber time during the finale, getting knocked out fairly quickly after the table finalists were established. He's married with 4 children. This marked Fishman's fourth WSOP in-the-money finish. He came in 5th place in an event two years ago. An interesting side note: Fishman was previously a professional bowler who was on tour.

OTHER IN-THE-MONEY FINISHERS:

Aside from the final table finishers, other gold bracelet winning players and notables who cashed in the top 20 included -- 10th -- Chris Klodnicki (runner up in One Drop event two years ago); 11th -- Kevin Song (1997 gold bracelet winner); 12th -- two-time gold bracelet winner Mark Radoja; 12th -- Sam Stein (1 win); and 14th -- Kory Kilpatrick (1 win).

Rounding out the in-the-money list were -- 2010 world champion Jonathan Duhamel (1 win), Bertrand "Elky" Grospellier (1 win); Jeremy Ausmus (1 win); and Phil Galfond (2 wins).

EVENT DIRECT LINKS:

For this event's results, visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/results.asp?grid=1136&tid=14237>

For Byron Kaverman's official player profile page, visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/playerprofile.asp?playerID=46300>

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

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/updates.asp?grid=1136&tid=14237>

For photos from this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/photos.asp?grid=1136&tid=14237>

For official winner photo, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/pdfs/reports/14237-winner-photo.jpg>

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

<http://www.wsop.com/videos/?vcat=37>

(Note: Will appear 48 hours after event concludes)

Written by Nolan Dalla (WSOP Media Staff)