

# WSOP today

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## The Women Steal the Show!

Once again, the buzz around the Amazon room at the beginning of the day was Phil Hellmuth, who had made it to another final table, adding his name to the top of another statistical category in the World Series of Poker record books. The all-time bracelet and cashes leader would only need to outlast one more player in order to tie TJ Cloutier with the most career final tables at 39. The ESPN table set up shop with the final 10 players instead of the usual 9 to ensure that they would have plenty of TV time in the case that he busted out in 10th, which would usually mean that player wouldn't get the coveted ESPN time.

Hellmuth wasn't the ONLY story at the \$3,000 No-Limit final table. Beth Shak was to be one of two different women at final tables that day. The table also included Perry Friedman, a bracelet winner and popular player from Las Vegas. Perry has a magnetic personality and is one of the more friendly and eccentric players you will meet at any table.

While Hellmuth and Friedman would provide a lot of color to the televised tables, they could only do it for so long. They finished in 6th and 7th respectively, and advanced Hellmuth in to a tie with Cloutier for the most final tables made in

the history of the game.

It got down to heads-up play between Beth Shak and Shankar Pillai, and Beth would be battling to become the second woman to win a bracelet during that day. (Read further for story of Katja Thater's success in the Razz event). Beth came close, but could not overcome Pillai, who won the title and his first WSOP bracelet.

Another reason to be excited on Tuesday was the debut of the \$5,000 No-Limit Hold'em Heads-Up World Championship! The new event would be capped at 512 players, meaning that the day would start with 256 matches in the room, a lot of them featuring one-on-one battles of some of the world's most well-known players.

Just a short list of some of the tough matches from only the first round:

Howard Lederer vs. Dan Harrington

Jennifer Harman vs. Ted Forrest

Jon "PearlJammer" Turner vs. Jason "strassa2"

Strasser

Freddy Deeb vs. Daniel Negreanu

Annie Duke vs. Justin Bonomo

As the day progressed and the field was cut in



**Katja Thater Wins \$1500 Razz Event**  
Photo: Jeff Shaw

half by each round, the match-ups got more and more interesting. Round 3 featured a battle of two of the most talented European players in the world when Patrik Antonius and Thomas

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Wahlroos met one another. Upstart tournament superstar would meet Antonio Esfandiari and Tony G. would match up with David Williams in that round as well.

Play would end for the day with Round 3 and players would be in the money, returning tomorrow to play down to the final 8 for the ESPN-televised finale on Thursday.

The \$2,500 No-Limit event was to play to its final six for the final table on Wednesday, but no one could have expected how quickly they did it. The day started with 42 players at 2 P.M., and play was over before they could even break for dinner!

The final six seats stacked up for tomorrow:

- Seat 1: Terrence Chan - 502,000
- Seat 2: Alan Sass - 1,217,000
- Seat 3: William Lin - 726,000
- Seat 4: James Pittman - 127,000
- Seat 5: Kelly Vander-Mheen - 307,000
- Seat 6: Hoyt Corkins - 1,300,000

It will be interesting to see how Sass and Corkins, the chip leaders who had been running over their respective tables while playing down to the final 6, will react to one another early in the day, and who will make the appropriate adjustments.

In the \$1,500 Razz event, final

table contestant from the Ladies World Championship Katja Thater took down the tournament, making her the first woman's bracelet winner of the Series from a mixed event. She outlasted a final table that included poker masters Men 'The Master' Nguyen and Paul 'Eskimo' Clark in order to achieve the well-deserved title of Razz World Champion.

Tomorrow will begin play in a \$1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha with re-buys tournament as well as a \$3,000 Limit Hold'em tournament.

## HAND OF THE DAY

From the \$2500 No Limit 6 Handed Event

Hoyt Corkins made it 32k to go from the button. Steve Wong moved all in from the small blind for 572k. Hoyt counted out his chips and eventually made the call. Steve revealed AhKc and Hoyt flipped over 9d9s. The flop came Qd5d3d. Hoyt's nines were still in the lead. The turn sealed the victory as the 2d rolled off giving Hoyt and unbeatable flush. Steve was eliminated and Hoyt enters today's final table with the chip lead.

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