

The Second Annual

JACK BINION

WORLD POKER OPEN

Presented By

HORSESHOE  **GOLD STRIKE**

CASINO-HOTEL CASINO RESORT

Casino Center/Aviano Mississippi

Event #7 **Omaha High-Low Split (Limit) \$500** **4/1/01**
Entries: 239 • Total Prize Money: \$115,915

1st	David Eller	Daytona Beach, FL	\$42,888
2nd	Kevin Lam	Shawnee, KS	22,023
3rd	Bruce Kelley	Calhoun, GA	11,011
4th	Bruce Atkinson	Brighton, England	6,954
5th	Dave Smith	Mansfield, OH	5,216
6th	Jesse Knigh	San Diego, CA	4,057
7th	Robert Selman	Boca Raton, FL	2,897
8th	Chris BJORIN	London, England	2,318
9th	Can Hua	Rosemead, CA	1,854
10th	Josh ARIEH	Austell, GA	1,390
11th	Scott Dolhon	Kissimmee, FL	1,390
12th	Hieu Ma	S. El Monte, CA	1,390
13th	Rich Bahr	Shawano, WI	1,160
14th	Bill Elliott	Austin, TX	1,160
15th	Chuck Humphrey	Palm Desert, CA	1,160
16th	Tommy Polk	Brookhaven, MS	928
17th	Mike O'Malley	Chandler, AZ	928
18th	Steve Brink	Richview, IL	928
19th	Toto Leonidas	Arleta, CA	695
20th	Donald Willis	Lake Kiowa, TX	696
21st	Danny Allgood	Bloomington, MN	696
22nd	Fred Walker	Council Bluffs, IA	696
23rd	Joseph Fleming	Fairfax, VA	696
24th	Hyechyn Murphy	Robinsonville, MS	696
25th	Joel Chaseman	Potomac, MD	696
26th	George Pitsilides	Virginia Beach, VA	696
27th	Mike Matusow	Henderson, NV	696

I finished on the bubble in the No-Limit Hold'em event a few days ago, and I made up my mind going into this tournament to get in the money," said David Eller, whose determination — and a bit of luck at the right time — enabled him not just to cash, but to claim first place in the \$500 buy-in Omaha High-Low Split competition. For topping a field of 239 players in the seventh event of the 2001 Jack Binion World Poker Open, Eller took home \$42,888 in prize money, plus a traditional WPO gold and diamond bracelet.

"This is incredible — just phenomenal," exulted Eller of his first major tournament title. "I'll be proud of the bracelet all my life." A 38-year-old electrical contractor from Daytona Beach, Florida, he has played poker since childhood but became a serious competitor just three years ago.

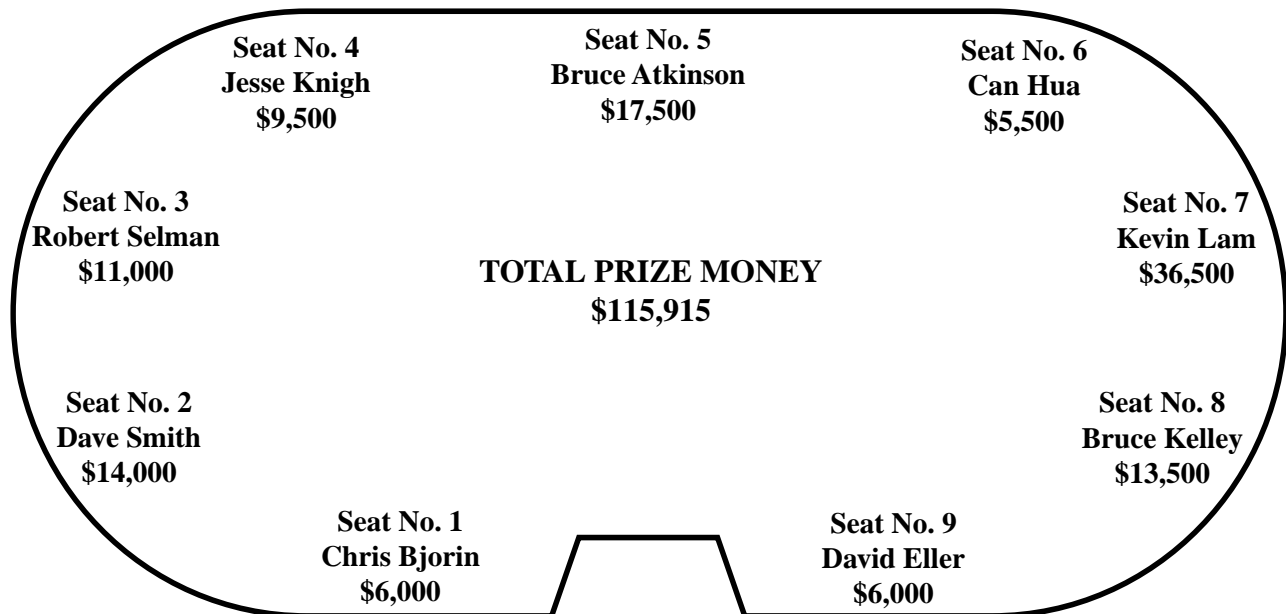
Eller came to the final table as a chip underdog but had confidence in his abilities. "I didn't recognize anybody, so I wasn't intimidated," he commented. Choosing his spots carefully, he won a few small pots to stay in the game while several of his short-stacked opponents were quickly eliminated. The first to go was Can Hua, who held A-A-K-8 in the big blind and was called by Bruce Atkinson, who was in the small blind with A♣ 9♥ 6♥ 4♣. On the turn the board showed J♥ 7♥ 3♥/5♥, and when the J♠ fell on the river, Hua called all in only to see Atkinson scoop the pot with a heart flush and a seven low. For placing ninth in his second final-table appearance at this year's WPO, Hua pocketed \$1,854.

On the very next round, Chris BJORIN raised before the flop with 6-4-3-2 and was also challenged by Atkinson, who was again in the small blind, this time holding

(Continued on back)

Event #7 • Omaha High-Low Split

FINAL TABLE Player & Chip Position



Q-Q-7-4. The flop brought J-6-3, Bjorin went all in with his two pair, and Atkinson called. On the turn came a queen, and when the board paired sixes on the river, Bjorin was gone in eighth place for \$2,318.

It wasn't long before Robert Selman was sent home when he raised all in before the flop with A-A-4-2 and was called by both Kevin Lam, who was in the big blind with K-Q-8-7, and Bruce Kelley, who held A-K-9-5. When the final board showed K-Q-J/9-6, Lam took down the money and Selman was forced to depart in seventh place for \$2,897.

A few hands later, Lam and Kelley also took out Jesse Knigh, who had already lived through four all-in battles and decided to stake his future survival on J-10-8-8, calling a raise in the big blind. When the flop came A-8-6, Lam bet out with 8-5-4-3, Kelley raised with 5-4-3-2, and Knigh called all in with his trip eights. But a four on the turn and a river seven split the spoils between Lam and Kelley, shutting Knigh out in sixth place for \$4,057.

Up until now Dave Smith had held his own, but he soon lost a sizeable pot with two pair to David Eller's trip sevens and suddenly found himself low on bullets. He took his last shot when he called from the

big blind with A-A-9-6 against his nemesis, who had raised with Q-Q-10-9. On the turn, Smith called all in with the board showing 10-10-4/J, but he failed to help on the river and bit the dust in fifth place for \$5,216.

David Eller had now picked up steam and before long saw an opportunity to run down Bruce Atkinson, who hadn't won a pot in several rounds and was in imminent peril. Dealt A-Q-9-2 under the gun, Eller raised before the flop and Atkinson called all in from the button with K-Q-8-7. The flop came 9-4-3, then Eller turned a five for a killer wheel, crushing Atkinson in fourth place for \$6,954.

On a full-fledged heater, Eller relentlessly pursued his remaining two opponents. He soon scooped two pots in a row against Kevin Lam, then won a big pot from Bruce Kelley to put him almost down to the felt. Moments later, Kelley was dispatched when he raised before the flop with Q-J-8-3 and was reraised by Eller, who held 10-5-5-4. Kelley kicked it up again, going all in, but when the final board showed Q-8-5/3-4, he had to settle for third place and \$11,011. This marks the highest

major-tournament finish to date for Kelley. A 47-year-old retired chief of police from Calhoun, Georgia, he restores classic cars in his spare time.

When the heads-up battle began, Eller held only a slight advantage over Lam, who had come to the final table with almost one-third of the chips in play. Though Lam rallied several times over the course of the next hour, he couldn't sustain the momentum and was ultimately eliminated when he took 9-7-5-3 up against Eller's K-J-J-10. On the turn, Lam was all in with the board showing 10-9-8/K, but the river brought him no help and Eller scooped the pot and won the title with kings up.

For placing second in his first final-table appearance at a major tournament, Lam was awarded \$22,023. The 36-year-old co-owner of a family restaurant business in Shawnee, Kansas, he has won several smaller competitions in the five years he has played poker seriously.

"This was a great experience — really fun," Lam said. "I'll be back next year."♠

Total Entries to Date: 1,979
Total Prize Money to Date: \$1,065,060