

# WORLD SERIES OF POKER MAIN EVENT 2008

## Steve's Journal

### Day 1 (July 2, 2008)

I left the house at 4:41 AM to make a 6:00 AM flight out of Evansville. Shelly (my wife) drove me to the airport. After 1 ½ hour layover in Atlanta, I arrived in Vegas shortly after 11:00 AM local time. I took a shuttle to the hotel (Paris) and was checked in by noon. After making several phone calls, I took about a two hour nap. I called Andrew Feldman from ESPN and went down to the Rio to register for the World Series Main Event. I was shuffled from the short pre-registered line to the long registration line and back to the pre-registered line (by the way, my registration fee was paid on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday-June 27). After some confusion by the casino employees, I wandered the halls a bit and saw Humberto Brenes and Jerry Yang (last year's winner). I went to watch the Ante up for Africa event. The event was on break when I got into the room, but Charles Barkley was entertaining the audience with various antics. Howard Lederer made a brief appearance towards the back of the room. When play resumed, Ben Affleck, Casey Affleck, Annie Duke, Phil Hellmuth's wife, Andy Bloch, Mike Matusow, John Hennigan, Jerry Cantrell and Shannon Elizabeth remained in the field. Phil Hellmuth was acting as MC with Ben Affleck playing his chips until the final table. Greg Raymer was hanging around the tournament as well as Scott Ian and the other guys from Anthrax. Shelly called while I was in the room and I told her about who was still playing. I wandered around a bit more before leaving the casino and heading back to Paris. I did see Raymond Rahme (3rd in 07 main event) in the hallway before leaving. I went to the mall to eat some dinner and returned to the room at about 9:00. I made some phone calls and called it a night.

### Day 2

I talked to Shelly in the morning and hung around the room until she was ready to leave to meet me in Vegas. She called me from the bank to say she had locked the keys in the car, but it turned out to be no big deal, because a police officer at the bank had it unlocked almost immediately. As she was taking Benjamin (son) to St. Louis to meet up with Emily (Shelly's sister) and to catch her flight, I went to watch some day 1A poker action at the Rio. The first thing you notice when you walk into the room is the rather loud background noise created by the people fumbling with their poker chips. The sound nearly disappears into the background after being in the room for a while, but reappears if you leave the room and come back again. I walked around to scan the 200 tables set up. I saw some pros here and there, Barry Greenstein, Phil Laak (I think), John Hennigan and numerous other people I see on TV but do not know by name. Scotty Nyugen was sitting at the ESPN feature table, but was barely visible. I settled on one table to watch the action for quite a while. I called Andrew Feldman and met him. He took me to ESPN's headquarters at the tournament. I met several ESPN folks and the tournament director. Pretty cool. We agreed on 7 PM for dinner and I went to watch more poker, I walked around the Rio a bit. I saw Chris Moneymaker who was doing an autograph session and Joe Hachem and Steve Danneman as well. I met Andrew for dinner shortly after 7. He introduced me to an instructor (Alex Outhred) from the poker academy. We ate at the Voodoo steakhouse on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor. The steak was very good as were the side orders of mushrooms and fries. We went to his room and Andrew gave me two ESPN Poker Club shirts to wear. I left just in time to catch a shuttle back to Paris to meet Shelly. The timing was perfect. We took Shelly's bag to the room and she wanted to go to the Rio to check out the poker tables. By now about 75 of the tables had broken, she got to see Barry Greenstein and Scotty Nyugen. We stayed for about 45 minutes before heading back to the hotel. We went to the mall to eat at a sports bar. The food was good. We went back to the hotel and retired for the night.

### Day 3

Shelly and I walked up and down the Strip a bit. We stopped in at several stores including the M&M store and the Coca-Cola store. We had lunch at the Harley-Davidson café. After buying a few items at Walgreens we headed back to the room and then down to the Rio. We walked the floor to spot known players. We saw Greg Raymer, Christina Gazes, Hoyt Corkins and Erick Lindgren. Lindgren was at ESPN's feature table. We met up with Andrew Feldman. He did a short podcast interview with me and then he got us seats at the press table at ESPN's feature table. We wandered around at the gaming exposition which was also going on at the Rio. There we got to see Doyle Brunson who was giving out books and signing autographs. We saw Scotty Nyugen and got a picture and autographed key chains. Gus Hansen was hanging out at the gaming exposition as well. We watched a little more poker and then went to dinner at an Italian restaurant at the Rio. Erick Lindgren also ate there on dinner break so we saw him again. The food was awesome. We headed back to Paris and watched the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show. It

was quite an amazing show. Shelly signed up for the rewards program so we played some slots. Combined we lost about \$100, but that will be reimbursed as part of signing up for the rewards program. We got some ridiculously decadent and ridiculously priced desserts at the hotel bakery and retired for the night.

## Day 4 (game day)

I woke up at 4:30 AM and really did not truly sleep again though I did not get out of bed until 9:00 AM. Shelly and I briefly checked out the pool before we headed off to the Rio for the game. As we were waiting for the shuttle I told her that I was “I have to puke” nervous. We got to the Rio and headed towards the tournament room. I settled down a little bit. I was seated at Blue Table 5, Seat two. (If you are not aware, a standard poker table has nine player seats and a seat for the dealer.) I kind of wanted to know everybody’s name at the table, but was not going to be the one to ask. The players at the table were:

Seat 1: A 27-32 year old from Cincinnati named Brian.

Seat 2: Me

Seat 3: An older guy from New York who just retired a week ago.

Seat 4: a 45 year old.

Seat 5: A young punk rock-looking guy.

Seat 6: A short blond haired European guy.

Seat 7: Another young guy who looked like he was going to fall asleep a few times.

Seat 8: An older guy.

Seat 9: An older guy who wore a Brooklyn Prep polo shirt.

Play started after Andy Griggs sang the song “All About the Money”. Everybody started with 20,000 chips. I won a small pot early (I think it was the second hand.) and was able to relax at the table. The first break came two hours into the tournament. I stood at 23,000 chips. It would turn out that as far as getting cards, that would be my best two hours of the night. I was three minutes late getting back to the table after the 20 minute break. I did an ESPN interview shortly into the second round. Chips went back and forth and we went through a number of dealers. Finally with about one minute to go in the round, Brian in seat 1 went all in and the guy in seat 3 called. Brian immediately asked “Do you have aces?” and the guy answered “yes”. Brian rolled his kings which were up against aces. Nothing hit and Brian was eliminated. He was the first one eliminated from the table. One more hand was played before the second break. I stood at about 23,500 chips at the second break. Brian was replaced by some hotshot player from Holland. He turned out to be a pro on the European circuit. This guy played 75% of the hands with a raise. Given the tightness of the table he often took down the blinds and antes. His cohort was videotaping from the audience and I asked that it be stopped since it was against the tournament rules. Shortly before dinner break, he got into a hand with seat 6. Seat 6 showed total rags 3 5 off suit into a 10,000 chip pot getting cowboy to lay it down. Dinner break was 90 minutes, Shelly and I each had a Pizza Hut pizza and talked about the tournament. At dinner break I sat at about 16,500 chips. Seat 4 was eliminated shortly before the break and was replaced by a player from Wales. “Cowboy” came back with his antics of raising most hands. Cowboy again got into a hand with seat 3. At the river the board read 8 9 9 9 10. He bet 10,000 chips and the guy in seat 3 pushed all in. He laid it down and was down to about 4000 chips. About ¾ of the way into the fourth round, I got pocket 9s. I was big blind. Cowboy announced his usual raise and I called. The flop was 3 K J with 2 spades. Cowboy bet 2200 and I pushed in a 5000 chip, since I did not say “raise”, so it was ruled a call. The turn was a 6 of hearts and he pushed all in. I was at about 14,000 chips and his bet was about 8500 chips. I glared at him through my sunglasses. He gulped...hard and I called immediately. He showed 6 and 2 both spades. I rolled my nines. I was going to the river with a lead. The river card was a four of spades and he made his flush. That hand essentially crippled me and left me with about 5500 chips. Break could not come soon enough. After break, I had three all-ins. Two went unchallenged and one was chopped as both cowboy and I had A-7. My last all in was A-8 vs Cowboy’s A-3. I had about 4500 chips. A 3 came on the flop and nothing else came. OUT at 12:20 with about 30 minutes left in the round. There were two more eliminations and two more new players before I was eliminated. Seat 3,6,8 and 9 remained from the original table. The guy in seat 3 had about 100,000 chips and was in great shape. I shook a few hands and left. Andrew did a quick ESPN podcast with me and then Shelly and I caught a cab back to the hotel. It burned...of course it burned, I am a competitive person. I got my chips in with the best hand twice, but the cards did not fall my way. To summarize my WSOP experience... I LOVED IT! It was a dream come true. Shelly was far more exhausted than me as she is not used to staying up late AND she had to stand the whole time. We did a bit of looking around for food when we got back. We finally settled on room service which showed up at 2:40 AM. Bedtime!

## Day 5

Shelly got me up at about 8:30. I forced myself to get out of bed so that I could spend some time with her before her flight. We walked around a bit and into a few shops. We got each of the kids dice with “Ben’s Casino, Al’s Casino, Adam’s Casino” engraved in them. We went back to the room and got Shelly’s bag. Shelly left in a cab. I went back to bed. I was still exhausted. At about 3:30 PM, I went back to the casino for day 1D action. It was the last “first” day of the tournament. I saw Phil Ivey at the secondary table and Phil Hellmuth at the feature table. Hellmuth was dressed as a five-star general and had

entered the tournament area two hours late with an entourage of white military uniformed ladies. His wife was seated in the media area and Chris Moneymaker was in the audience as well. I saw Mark Seif bust at the feature table. He had trip 9s and lost to a woman with a full house. He grumbled that she was giving false tells. Funny. I wandered through the playing field. I saw Johnny Chan, Jerry Yang, Ryan Elson, Jennifer Harmon and Maria Ho. I got some pictures of Hellmuth, but by the time I went back to take Phil Ivey's picture, he had busted. I met up with Andrew Feldman and arranged for him to come by and transfer the hotel bill to his credit card. I looked around some more and saw Hevad Khan and Jamie Gold. I headed back to the Paris. I ordered room service and stuck around the room for a while. I talked to Shelly after her flight arrived in St. Louis. Andrew called and I met him in the lobby. I got a picture of him and one of him and I in the lobby. I thanked him for everything that he had done. I wanted to do one last thing while I was in Vegas. I walked on the walkway between the Paris and the Bellagio. I watched the water show from the walkway and then crossed over the walkway and watched it again from ground level right in front of the water. I went back to the hotel room and watched some TV. I had a snack and went to bed.

## Day 6

I got up around 9 AM. I gathered my belongings and checked out of the hotel. I took a cab to the airport. The flight left at 1:21 PM and I was on a plane or in an airport until Shelly picked me up at the Evansville airport at 9 PM. It was good to see her and the kids. My 2008 WSOP experience was now over---with the exception of reliving the experience for all my friends!

## 2008 World Series of Poker Photographs

**2008 World Series of Poker**  
TOURNAMENT BUY-IN RECEIPT

EVENT 054 Multi-Day  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NO-LIMIT HOLDEM  
12 NOON

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STEPHEN GLUECKERT - 0017003632439

Area	Table	Seat
Amazon Blue	5	2

Cash:	\$0.00	Wire Transfer:	\$0.00
Chips:	\$0.00	Cashier Check:	\$0.00
BIC:	\$0.00	Other:	\$10,000.00

**Total Buy-In: \$ 10,000.00**  
ten thousand and xx / 100

**Tournament Date: 07/05/2008**

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Received By: B Garcia  
June 27, 2008 9:00 pm



TSC

07/04/2008

Customer Copy

My registration receipt



Steve standing with the beer blow up



Mike "the Mouth" Matusow



Greg "Fossil Man" Raymer



Erick Lindgren



Chris Moneymaker



Daniel "The Kid" Negreanu



Shelly, Scotty Nyugen, Steve



Doyle Brunson



Andrew Feldman and Steve

**Various Pictures of Steve during his Day of Play**





