



Sam Adams: APT Player of the Year

By Geoff Bond

: Gold Coast poker pro Sam Adams surprised few with his APT Season IV Player of the Year Title – scooping the \$50k bounty during a ridiculous run in the last week of September.

GOLD Coast pro Sam Adams was the toast of the domestic poker scene as APT's Season IV wound down to its conclusion at Eatons Hill in late September. What shaped as a thrilling final sprint for the coveted Player of the Year Award fast became a one-horse race as the talented Kiwi import staged a virtual clinic during the seven-day series.

The \$50,000 prize for POY helped to build a cache of over \$177,000 for Adams – by far the biggest single-series collect of his career, as he re-wrote APT's record books and confirmed his status as one of the players to watch on the professional circuit.

En-route to one of the most dominant performances seen in recent decades, Adams scooped the prestigious Goliath Event for \$46,140 and then put the points race to bed with a super impressive display to better a field of 412 entrants and take out the Main Event trophy and a first prize of \$48,000. Along the way, he also finished second in the Big PLO event and a close 3rd in the 6-Max Shotclock to secure the Player of the Series trophy.

One of the Australian poker scenes most consistent players in recent years, Adams has absolutely carved a swathe through series after series and climbed to the top of the mantle as a prolific performer in Players of the Series races.

With 15 years of live poker under his belt, Adams is also a clear favorite for the WPT QPC Player of the Year Title belt.

“It's a unique prize for the WPT POY winner. They actually have a belt similar to those used in championship boxing.

I'd certainly like to add that to the collection,” he offered.

Surprisingly, given his incredulous 2021 season may never be bettered, Adams is not one for coaching or hitting the strategy books and classes.

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I'd certainly like to add that to the collection,” he offered.

“I've always had a very keen interest in developing my game and getting better, but I choose not to delve too deep into the traditional methods of doing so. I've literally never studied a push-fold chart or read a strategy-based book,”

he revealed.



Sam Adams Player APT of the Year
Credit: APT Live Reporting



NEWSLETTER

“That doesn't mean I'm not putting in the hours off the felt though. There is a lot of detailed planning which goes into preparation for these series. It can be quite mentally exhausting obviously, so having everything properly planned out helps immensely in negotiating what is often a tricky schedule of events. There are often very long days of being at the tables ... followed by a further couple of hours back at the hotel researching leaderboards, table draws etc. I'm a bit of a perfectionist by nature, so that probably helps to be honest.”

Both methodical and unassuming, Adams has an extremely calm presence at the table – a technique he developed a long time ago and one which has served him greatly.

“Once the cards are dealt, I'm pretty much on auto-pilot,” he said. “I tend to sit quite upright and alert on purpose. Being conscious and in control of the simplest things – such as breathing and posture – can make it harder for opponents to make a read at crucial times. The last thing you want as a poker player is to act any differently, whether you are nervous or excited as a hand unfolds.”

He is also focused heavily on getting off to a good start and always looking to get involved out of the blocks.

“So many of these large-field tournaments are very similar structures. The first couple of hours often include a rebuy option, so I'm looking for spots to get chips in the middle and build a good stack early. Playing a higher proportion of hands in the early stages is definitely my strategy. When you opt for a higher-variance style of poker, you also open up the chance to play to your strengths post-flop and gather chips before the rising blinds demand a more disciplined approach.”

Anyone who tuned in and followed Adams' progress on the live streams witnessed his impressive blend of perfectly-timed aggression and discipline. Like clockwork, Adams pulled off big play after big play ... laying down huge hands when behind and finding the occasional spot to bluff and steal key pots. He had viewer's jaws dropping late in The Goliath event, executing a brilliant laydown to eventual runner-up [Kalan Roberts](#) in a spot where many players could never find a fold. Deep in 3-handed play, Roberts limped in with JJ against the QQ held by Adams and the flop came out Jack high. Holding the over pair, Adams was able to get away somehow when his opponent bombed the river.

Away from the demands of tournament poker, Adams is a huge cricket lover and once again puts a great deal of study into wagering on upcoming international tournaments and events.

“I'm a cricket tragic – always have been – and I'll spend a great deal of time studying and crunching numbers and then place bets accordingly across a series,” he told Poker Buzz.

And what does the immediate future hold for the white-hot Adams?

“I'm really looking forward to some travel and downtime away from the game to refresh,” Adams said. “I have some friends in Indonesia I'm going to spend some time with and unwind, so poker will definitely be taking a backseat for a while.”

“But, having said that, I'm sure I'll return to Australia when the big events are calling my name.”
Don't hurry back, Sam! Give someone else a chance to bask in the spotlight.

APT Season IV G.F. WRAP-UP

By Geoff Bond

As the Australian Poker Tour wound down its Season IV with a \$1.15m series at Eatons Hill last month, its list of tournament winners read like a virtual who's who of the domestic poker scene. While a wizardly performance from Gold Coast pro Sam Adams deservedly literally stole all the limelight – as he ran away with the coveted APT Player of the Year Award – his main contenders also turned in brilliant results over the week-long event. While Adams swept all before him to win both The Goliath and Main Event Titles, his main rivals were also crushing it with several deep runs in the “blue ribbon” events. Eventual POY runner-up Cooper Smout finished an impressive 3rd in the Goliath and also went heads-up in The Beast before finishing second to eventual winner, Dean Stacey (\$25,000).

Consistent performer Kale Matthews added another trophy and \$12,000 to his resume with a win in the PLO/NLH Rotation event, while Jesse Stanley (\$39,000) and John Perry also earned good paydays with 1st/2nd respectively in the highly-respected The Grind tournament. Dylan Wayne was able to extend his excellent 2021 form with a dominant victory in the Dracakis Players Championship for \$27,500, bettering a star-studded field of 114 entrants.

Brenton Buttigieg took out the NLH Championships, while the 6-Max Championship saw Simon Peddler emerged victorious – both players scooping \$11,500 for their wins. APT's unique Tournament of Champions event brought together winners from all their 2021 events and played down to a thrilling finish with Juan Amezquita (\$10,000) bettering cagey veterans Milton Trickey and Duncan McKinnon for some heady bragging rights. Affable Brisbaneite, Johannes Dijkstra was beaming after securing the 6-Max Shotclock event for over \$10k and his first major trophy.

In other notable results, The Big Bounty event was won by Waikin Cheung, with Josh Horton scooping the Opening Event for a juicy \$6000 payday. Anne Lawrence won the Ladies Championship, defeating consistent Brisbaneite Belinda Oosthuizen.

APT GRAND FINAL
2021-SEASON 4

EVENT 27 - THE BEAST
\$450 [\$400+\$50] RESULTS

1ST	DEAN STACEY	\$25,000
2ND	COOPER SMOUT	\$17,500
3RD	TOM MAGUIRE	\$11,000
4TH	JONATHAN CROSS I	\$8,000
5TH	YUWEI WEI	\$6,800
6TH	REAGAN SAMOA	\$5,500
7TH	BRUNO DA SILVA	\$4,200
8TH	JONNIE KURURANGI	\$3,000
9TH	PETER KIRKMAN	\$2,200

DEAN STACEY
\$25,000

EVENT 27
APT - THE BEAST
\$98,500
PRIZE POOL

259 ENTRIES
*\$5,100 ADDED TO SERIES COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

10TH	ADRIAN SPORTELLI	\$1,500	19TH	JAMES KABOURAKIS	\$800
11TH	JACK BROWN	\$1,250	20TH	JASON ANAND	\$800
12TH	JOHN ROSARIO	\$1,250	21ST	PAUL MAMACOS	\$650
13TH	LUIS VARGAS	\$1,000	22ND	ANDREW SAMOA	\$650
14TH	MINA GERGES	\$1,000	23RD	JESSE STANLEY	\$650
15TH	MEDHI SWALEH	\$1,000	24TH	ADAM THAGGARD	\$650
16TH	HASIAN HYDE	\$1,000	25TH	SONNY HO	\$650
17TH	THI MINH NGOC NGO	\$1,000	26TH	ANNE LAWRENCE	\$650
18TH	ROB TAYLOR	\$800			

GIANT-KILLER: Gold Coast Goliath winner Dwan Setton scooped a six-figure payday after navigating one of the toughest fields ever assembled for an APT event in March. *Photo Courtesy of Australian Poker Tour

Beyond basic poker tells – Part 1

By Darryl Lanyon

"If an opponent won't watch you bet, then you probably shouldn't" (Mike Caro).

Non-verbal communication between poker players, via body language, has been studied for decades. A wealth of information is available in books and on-line regarding poker tells and in recent years, since live televised poker, many expert players have created video content with quality commentary.

Many top winning players are considered skilled in most areas of the game. Being 'perceptive' or 'intuitive' is actually reading another player's non-verbal clues and to compare these with verbal signals and physical actions.

When we have a 'hunch' or 'a gut feeling' someone is bluffing, we really mean their body language, actions and spoken words don't agree. I'm a strong believer in subconscious and conscious observation and know we sense things but consciously don't act upon, but our subconscious sways our next action to make the correct play. In other words you call a bluff, you don't know why (consciously), but say "I knew you were bluffing!"

Another related problem is most players spend their time looking but not truly seeing! Here are several live poker game poker tell tips. A few words of warning, not all players give off tells, a few do reverse tells and it is always best to use several pieces of information before making a final decision.

- The best time to observe an opponent is when THEY look at their hand. Pre-flop players are less guarded about their holdings.
- Next time before you look at your hole cards, look up to see who is watching you. Those are the players to watch out for.
- A quick bet normally means a great hand but subject to the player (it can also be a weak hand or draw).
- Beware of the 'speech', then a re-raise all-in.
- When nits (tight players) raise they have a hand.
- Players with a weak hand normally 'stare' at you.
- A relaxed opponent with a sad/concerned expression is more likely to hold a strong hand
- The longer you take to make a river decision the more you will give away about your hand.
- A small natural shoulder shrug or sigh, followed by a big river bet is a top hand.
- Bluffers sometimes reach for a drink (dry mouth).
- Players with strong hands are more focused, looking down in their own world and not looking around.
- Observe your opponents reaction to the flop – if they quickly look away (to appear disinterested) it's a sign they like the flop and have a big hand.
- Gather information on all players during or while out of a hand.
- Look for reliable patterns based upon their hand range. (3 bet AK, check-call draws, limp in early with small suited connectors, etc)



- Look for reliable patterns based upon their hand range. (3 bet AK, check-call draws, limp in early with small suited connectors, etc)
- Is their 'confidence' genuine or poor acting?
- Talking during a hand is normally a sign of weakness. Most players are quiet during great hands.
- Don't switch off for a second, you may miss a critical piece of information.
- It's hard for most players to 'fake something' OR 'act'. To be 'natural' is a challenge to a bluffer. Genuine vs non-genuine. Remember fake people are easier to read.
- Always look out for basic tells. The nervous bet is normally a strong hand (tension release). The opponent on your left reaching for chips, is a move to stop YOU betting. Moving the cards 'closer' to them, means they like the hand. They look, then they quickly closed the hand (a big hand). Watch your opponent's reaction to the flop, not the flop! Players often act the opposite to their hand, act weak/sad with a good hand and act strong with a weak hand!

Part two I'll have more quick tell tips and will share live hands illustrating how tells (combined with other information) have saved my stack, in cash games and tournaments.

WHAT'S ON in DECEMBER?

QUEENSLAND

Poker Summer Series @ THE STAR CASINO (GOLD COAST)

26th of November - 6th of December

What's shaping up to be another great series on the Gold Coast.

www.star.com.au/goldcoast/whats-on/poker

NEW SOUTH WALES

POKER PALACE AUSTRALIA - Marconi Christmas Cup

5th - 20th of December

\$800k est. Series.

www.pokerpalace.com.au/

KINGS POKER

Various Dates

Check their website for upcoming events.

www.kingspoker.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NO EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Stay Tuned

VICTORIA

NO EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Stay Tuned

TABLE TALK

w/ Geoff Bond

KID POKER

Daniel Negreanu offers a unique presence at the poker table and in his vlogs...



Following up on the theme of my last column, I've been watching a lot of poker vloggers of late and with the timing of the World Series of Poker playing out in Vegas, wanted to recommend Daniel Negreanu's current daily updates.

"Kid Poker" is one player I have always enjoyed watching. His insane reading ability is something to behold and Negreanu has clearly built a very good life from poker - he's happy to walk you through his amazing home AND take you for a drive in his amazing cars with his hot wife and two of the cutest pooches you'll ever see.

In between coverage of every event, he personally plays during the WSOP, he'll take you to a wild night at the hockey and let you rub shoulders with the tournament circuit elite.

Opinionated and vocal (especially after drinking the bar dry at the ice hockey), Daniel wears his heart on his sleeve at the table and it's been kinda painful watching him make deep run after deep run over the past four weeks.

It's quite eye-opening watching him cash regularly and yet still be -\$120k plus overall. Obviously, one win or super deep cash will offset that instantly, but after 30 days of grinding an extremely diverse range of mixed games its still a sobering thought that a player on a run which sees him very much in the running for the Player of the Year Title could still be running at a loss due to buy-ins.

Not that raising buy-ins is an issue for Negreanu - who literally spends his World Series bouncing from the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino to his sprawling mansion nearby OR just walking to his massive RV parked right outside throughout the whole schedule.

He also mixes in a regular chat with seasoned pro/serial complainer Allan Kessler - Chainsaw Corner - which is quite amusing. Daniel's hand breakdowns and bustouts are filled with his typical passion, adding to a very honest account of the day-to-day WSOP experience of a high stakes professional.

Just past the halfway mark of the seven-week schedule, you can't help but be impressed by the chilled approach he brings to what is a gruelling schedule. Or to hope that the next time you log in he'll be eyeing off another bracelet and actually running good when it counts.

You might wanna wind through his occasional shameless food delivery endorsements, maybe even his fantasy hockey jibberish ... but the poker is good and there are some massive events just around the corner. He is even selling off chunks of his action (at no markup!) to viewers.

You get the feeling Negreanu is about to do something special at the WSOP. It's the perfect time to add Kid Poker's vlog to your daily downtime viewing.



CONGRATULATES **SAM ADAMS** ON A REMARKABLE WEEK OF POKER



EVENT 7 - GOLIATH - 1ST - \$46,140
EVENT 8 - 6MAX SHOTCLOCK - 3RD - \$4,400
EVENT 12 - APT MAIN EVENT - 1ST - \$48,000
EVENT 14 - 6MAX SHOOTOUT - RD 2 - \$200
EVENT 24 - POKERSHOP 200 - 14TH - \$425
EVENT 25 - AAP BIG PLO - 2ND - \$12,200
APT SEASON IV GRAND FINAL PLAYER OF THE SERIES - 1ST - \$10,150
APT SEASON IV PLAYER OF THE YEAR - 1ST - \$50,000
TOTAL WINNINGS AT APT SEASON IV GRAND FINAL - \$171,515

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL OF US AT THE APT

Sam Adams Player APT of the Year
Credit: APT Live Reporting