

Joseph Hebert Wins 2020 World Series of Poker® Main Event® Domestic Final Table, Honoring his Late Mother

Heads-Up World Championship Pitting Domestic and International Winners Rescheduled for Sunday, January 3, 2021

*For downloadable hi-res images and video, click [here](#)
Photo Credit: Jaime Thomson*

LAS VEGAS (Dec. 28, 2020) – The World Series of Poker (WSOP) \$10,000 No-Limit Hold-Em World Championship, better known to poker fans as the Main Event, crowned a domestic champion on Monday, Dec. 28 when Joseph Hebert of Metairie, LA out-last-ed the field of finalists at the in-person final table at Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino to win \$1,553,256.

“It still hasn’t hit me yet; this is a life-changing experience,” Hebert said. “It feels like a dream. I felt like I was dreaming the whole time I was playing. I know my mom was here with me, and this was for her.”

The 38-year-old Hebert dominated the chip count from start to finish, but the victory was anything but easy. Hebert unexpectedly lost his mother in September. In their final exchange he told her his dream was to win a WSOP bracelet and he dedicated this incredible run to her memory. Hebert started a grassroots social media campaign #ForLinda and finished it off with a first-place performance. He said he could feel her presence with him as he played, and he certainly made her proud. By the end of the tournament, he stood alone after knocking out runner-up, Ron Jenkins.

Hebert has been a long-time grinder playing mostly in smaller stake, regional tournaments and gradually earned a top 200 ranking in the Global Poker Index. Following his WSOP win, Hebert will celebrate with his family and friends, surprising his father with a new car and granting his 8-year-old son’s wish for a pet bird. Hebert also plans on revisiting his roots at The Galley Seafood restaurant in Metairie, Louisiana where he has worked on and off for nearly two decades in the service industry.

As the winner of the tournament’s domestic leg, Hebert will now go head-to-head for the title of World Champion against the international winner, Damian Salas of Argentina, who defeated Brazil’s Brunno Botteon for the top prize of \$1,550,969 at the King’s Resort in Rozvadov, Czech Republic on Dec. 15.

Due to unforeseen travel complications presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Heads-Up Finale will now be played on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, at Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

“Certainly 2020 has been a year of challenges for so many and we experienced them in organizing this unique format for a poker tournament on two continents,” said Ty Stewart, Executive Director, World Series of Poker. “We are so proud of this event, and the showcase it will provide for poker on January 3. We’ve seen memorable moments you can’t believe and discovered two central characters you can’t help but root for. A dream will be dealt on January 3, and that’s exactly what we need heading into 2021.”

The World Champion will earn an additional \$1 million and the most valuable trophy in the world of sports - the 2020 diamond and gold encrusted WSOP Main Event bracelet.

The 2020 WSOP Main Event Domestic Final Table Payouts are below:

1st place - Joseph Hebert - Metairie, LA	\$1,553,256
2nd place - Ron Jenkins - South El Monte, CA	\$1,002,340
3rd place - Michael Cannon - Harrisburg, PA	\$529,258
4th place - Ryan Hagerty - Somerset, NJ	\$387,130
5th place - Ye ‘Tony’ Yuan - Madison, WI	\$286,963
6th place - Harrison Dobin - West Long Branch, NJ	\$215,222
7th place - Shawn Stroke - Lawrence,	\$163,786

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8th place - Gershon Distenfeld - Bergenfield, NJ	\$125,885
9th place - Upeshka De Silva - Houston, TX	\$98,813

Hand #98 was the first deal of heads-up play, and the final hand of the tournament. Hebert entered heads-up play with a 2:1 chip lead over Jenkins, and wasted no time attacking. Hebert four-bet jammed with ace-queen, and Jenkins called off with pocket queens. An ace spiked on the flop and Jenkins was eliminated. He walks away as a millionaire himself with \$1,002,340 in prize money.

The players weren't the only ones who benefited from the Final Table payouts in 2020. In the spirit of giving, Gershon Distenfeld, who finished in 8th place in his first ever WSOP Main Event, will use his platform for philanthropy. He graciously pledged to donate 100% of his winnings to charitable causes close to his heart.

The 2020 Main Event established a new benchmark for prize pools in U.S. regulated markets, easily eclipsing the \$2.019 million achieved for the 2020 WSOP Online championship in July 2020. Also of note, since regulations began for online poker in 2014, never had a player won \$1 million or greater on a U.S. licensed poker site. The 2020 Main Event made millionaires of both first and second place for the domestic field, and when combined with first and second place payouts for the international bracket, saw four players hitting the millionaire mark from the tournament.

Key Upcoming Dates:

Heads-Up Championship of Domestic Winner vs. International Winner:
Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas

To stay up to date on the latest WSOP news, visit: www.WSOP.com.

About the World Series of Poker

The World Series of Poker® is the largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world, having awarded more than \$3.29 billion in prize money and the prestigious gold bracelet, globally recognized as the sport's top prize. Featuring a comprehensive slate of tournaments in every major poker variation, the WSOP is poker's longest-running tournament in the world, dating back to 1970. In 2019, the event attracted 187,298 entrants from 118 different countries to the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas and awarded more than \$293 million in prize money. In addition, the WSOP has formed groundbreaking alliances in broadcasting, digital media and corporate sponsorships, while successfully expanding the brand internationally with the advent of WSOP Europe in 2007 and the WSOP Asia-Pacific in 2013 and the WSOP International Circuit Series in 2015. All WSOP events are subject to the then-current and applicable WSOP tournament rules. For more information, please visit www.wsop.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding our strategies, objectives and plans for future development or acquisitions of properties or operations, as well as expectations, future operating results and other information that is not historical information. When used in this press release, the terms or phrases such as "anticipates," "believes," "projects," "plans," "intends," "expects," "might," "may," "estimates," "could," "should," "would," "will likely continue," and variations of such words or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Although our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and with what we believe is a reasonable basis, there can be no assurance that these expectations, beliefs and projections will be realized. There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements which are included elsewhere in this press release. These risks and uncertainties include: (a) the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including (i) the extent and duration of the impact of the global COVID-19 public health emergency and measures to contain the public health emergency or mitigate its impact on the Company's business, financial results and liquidity; (ii) the ability of the Company to modify its operations to comply with various state, tribal and local directives, mandates, and orders; (iii) the impact of actions the Company has undertaken to reduce costs and improve efficiencies to mitigate losses as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, which could negatively impact guest loyalty and our ability to attract and retain our employees; and (iv) changes and instability in global, national and regional economic activity and financial market activity as a result of the

COVID-19 public health emergency and the impact on consumer discretionary spending and travel; (b) the possibility that the proposed acquisition of William Hill and the announced and proposed dispositions are not consummated on the expected terms or at all; (c) risks related to the Merger of the Company and CEC and the proposed acquisition of William Hill and the integration of their respective businesses and assets; (d) potential adverse reactions or changes to business or employee relationships, including those resulting from the completion of the Merger and the proposed acquisition of William Hill; (e) the possibility that the anticipated benefits of the Merger and the proposed acquisition of William Hill, including cost savings and expected synergies, are not realized when expected or at all; (f) risks associated with increased leverage and additional rental expense resulting from debt financing undertaken in connection with the Merger and the proposed acquisition of William Hill and real estate transactions undertaken in connection with the Merger; (g) competitive responses to the Merger and the proposed acquisition of William Hill; and (h) additional factors discussed in the sections entitled "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the Company's and CEC's respective most recent Annual Reports on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Other unknown or unpredictable factors may also cause actual results to differ materially from those projected by the forward-looking statements.

In light of these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed in this press release might not occur. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release, even if subsequently made available on our website or otherwise, and we do not intend to update publicly any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date on which the statement is made, except as may be required by law.

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Additional assets available online:  [Photos \(1\)](#)

<http://caesars.mediaroom.com/2020-12-29-Joseph-Hebert-Wins-2020-World-Series-of-Poker-R-Main-Event-R-Domestic-Final-Table-Honoring-his-Late-Mother>