

WPT Season 3

UltimateBet's Aruba Poker Classic

Casino: Radisson Resort and Casino

Location: Aruba, Caribbean

Buy-in: \$6,000

of Players: 647

Prize Pool: \$4,000,000

Final Table Date: Oct. 1, 2004

Results:

1. Eric Brenes \$1,000,000
2. Layne Flack \$500,000
3. Mike Matusow \$250,000
4. Patrick McMillan \$170,000
5. John Juanda \$130,000
6. Vic Fey \$105,000

Maybe it was for the weather, maybe it was for the poker, but either way 647 players made it out to Aruba to participate in UltimateBet's Aruba Poker Classic. With an entry fee of \$6,000 provided by each player, the prize pool totaled a startling \$4,000,000 with a cool \$1,000,000 awarded to the winner.

Half of the final table showcased household names in the poker community. Layne Flack, John Juanda, and Mike "The Mouth" Matusow eyed a WPT title and a lot of money. Although not a household name, Erick Brenes does provide the pedigree. We all know the boisterous antics of his brother, Humberto Brenes. Eric came into the day 2nd in chips behind Layne Flack.

After Vic Fey was eliminated in 6th place, John Juanda made a misread following a Layne Flack raise from the small blind with AK. Juanda made a big reraise with A8 and Flack immediately moved all-in. Juanda had no choice but to put all his chips in the pot and when the board didn't improve his hand, he went out in 5th place.

Matusow eliminated Patrick McMillan in 4th place, but would soon follow him out the door. Matusow and Brenes got all their chips into the pot after a flop of Q85 with Brenes holding a meek 86 while Matusow had Q9 for top pair. Brenes, however, would deliver the suck out as the 6 fell on the river. Matusow was crippled and went out a hand later in 3rd place.

Even though Flack held a 2-1 chip lead going into heads-up play, it wouldn't last. Brenes took the lead and eliminated Flack after drawing out yet again. Flack was all-in with 99 against the 22 of Brenes. The turn, however, gave Brenes a set of 2's and a WPT title.