

## World Poker Challenge

Casino: Reno Hilton

Location: Reno, NV

Buy-in: \$5,000

Entry Fee: \$100

# of Players: 381

Prize Pool: \$1,725,350

Final Table Date: Apr. 1, 2005

### Results:

1. Arnold Spee \$663,380
2. Blair Rodman \$327,815
3. Phil Ivey \$163,908
4. Michael Yoshino \$103,521
5. Russ Carson \$77,641
6. Mark Chopic \$60,387

The final stop for Season 3 of the WPT landed in Nevada. No, not Las Vegas, but Reno. The Reno Hilton hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual World Poker Challenge. With 381 entrants buying in for \$5,000, the stage was set for the final WPT event before the WPT World Championship in Las Vegas.

With 6 players left, one name stood above the rest...Phil Ivey. Arguably the best poker player in all the land, Ivey had his sights on nothing less than a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish. Pros Blair Rodman and Arnold Spee along with amateurs Michael Yoshino, Russ Carson, and Mark Chopic, however, wanted the title for themselves.

It would be a short day for the amateurs as Chopic, Carson, and Yoshino came in 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, respectively. This left the three pros to battle it out for the title.

Ivey was the first pro to go as he found himself all-in with 9s-9d against the Kd-Kc of Spee. The board didn't help Ivey as he exited stage left in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Spee and Rodman then went heads-up for the crown. Spee, who played nearly perfect, did get his money in behind against Rodman. Spee held 4s-3s versus the Kd-7h of Rodman on a board of 9s-7s-3c. The river, however, proved to be Spee's savior as the 4d hit giving him two-pair and his first WPT title.