

5th Street Rounders – The Evolution

Welcome to “5th Street Rounders”, or [5SR], the longest running poker group on Xbox LIVE. Its roots go back to late-2004, when the first wave of poker titles hit the original Xbox: “Bicycle Casino”, “High Rollers Casino” and, most notably (in a historical perspective), “World Championship Poker”.

Playing “World Championship Poker” on Xbox LIVE, it became apparent that there were serious poker players and other players without a real understanding of the game (who will be hereafter referred to as “donkeys”). The “serious poker players” used Xbox LIVE’s “Friends List” feature to begin developing a network of like-minded gamers to create a “poker community” and join together for competitive poker tournaments.

The next big step in poker on Xbox LIVE was the release of “World Series of Poker” on Xbox in September 2005. On “WSOP”, the foundation of what would become [5SR] began to take hold. Daily, a group of players would get together in the afternoon and evenings for a series of Sit & Go tournaments (most often, hosted by “FordMan429”). Initially, the donkeys were kept out by the prerequisite that players could only gain admission to the tournaments by obtaining a “Pro Player Takedown” chip in offline play.

Ultimately, the demand to enter these “WSOP” tournaments on Xbox LIVE began to outweigh the supply of seats at the tables. The chronicles of these poker players spawned a website, www.whatwouldchrisdo.com, that was originally created as an “inside joke” by “Dj Lewis CA”, [5SR] co-founder, webmaster and 1st ever Hall of Famer. The site has since been rechristened www.5SRPoker.com.

On “WSOP”, what would become known as “5th Street Rounders” was born. Instead of only playing in Sit & Go poker tournaments for fun and friendly competition, the tournament results began to be recorded, an oft-duplicated “points” system was created and [5SR] champions were crowned. The “[5SR] Hall of Fame” was created in March 2006 to record these achievements.

Other Xbox poker games would come and go (2K’s “World Poker Tour”, “World Championship Poker 2”, etc.), but, at the time, none compared with “World Series of Poker”. Then, in what appeared to be a beacon of light, “STACKED with Daniel Negreanu” was released in May 2006. This would be the first poker game on Xbox LIVE to host multi-table tournaments, even be sponsored by MTV.

“STACKED” brought with it pros and cons, mostly cons. Although “STACKED” was a well thought out poker simulator, it was very poorly executed leaving a majority of players extremely frustrated by network connection issues and frequent drops from games. Still, the first ever MTV-sponsored “Showdown” tournament brought together some very good poker players and many new friends were made. After 600 Xbox players competed in 45 tournaments, the winner of the first MTV Showdown Tournament was [5SR] co-founder “TwoBitHooligan”. He received an offer to audition for “MTV’s

STACKED featuring Daniel Negreanu” television show in Las Vegas, but declined for personal reasons.

[5SR] now runs on “World Series of Poker: Battle for the Bracelets” (2008) on the Xbox 360. Poker had a slow start on the Xbox 360 with the Xbox LIVE Arcade game “Texas Hold’em”, but hit its stride with “World Series of Poker: Tournament of Champions” (2007) and the largely ignored (and rightfully so) “World Championship Poker: All-In”.

[5SR] has evolved to its current state through trial and error. We continue to experiment with the poker idiom by running a variety of poker tournaments throughout our history, in addition to the “tried and true” No Limit Texas Hold’em. From “Donation” games, to “Bounty Hunter” games, to Omaha, to Omaha Hi-Low Split, to our current H.O.R.S.E. tournament, we continue to strive to satisfy the poker enthusiast.

In February 2008, the “[5SR] Player of the Month” was established to honor the player with the most overall tournament points in a calendar month. The winner is awarded 1600 Xbox LIVE Marketplace points (or the equivalent). [5SR] runs only one multi-table tournament a day, believing in quality over quantity.

Now, some three years after inception, [5SR] continues to provide an Xbox LIVE poker experience for serious players that balances competition and community. By keeping [5SR] tournaments private and by invitation-only, we attempt to maximize the skill level and minimize the distractions. [5SR] has survived where so many others have failed by following a 3-D policy: no donkeys, no drama, no disrespect. We continue to maintain our community by loyalty and word of mouth.

See you at the tables... The Management