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Secrets Of Professional Tournament Poker, Volume 2: Stages Of The Tournament



Synopsis

Tournament poker is a tough game to play but the rewards for success can be huge. Even regular online tournaments offer substantial prizes running to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Jonathan Little, a highly successful poker professional who has won over \$4 million in tournament play in just four years, explains exactly how to succeed in this highly competitive field. Playing technically sound poker is crucial but this is far from the only skill necessary. *Secrets of Professional Tournament Poker, Volume 1* dealt with the fundamentals of play. Volume 2 builds on this base and examines the highly complex issue of how to handle the different stages of a tournament. At times the best strategy is to play loose, create problems for your opponent and thus keep accumulating chips. At other times an ultra-tight strategy will be the most profitable. Understanding when to "change gears" is a highly developed skill that requires a great deal of study and experience. Jonathan Little has that experience. Managing life as a professional poker player throws up a number of issues in itself and Jonathan calls upon his many years as a pro to address these.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After reading Vol 1, I was convinced that Jonathan Little had written the perfect book for tournament poker players in the new and coming decade. At the time, I called Vol 1 a Bachelors Degree in poker. So why write Vol 2? Let's be honest, most poker books are a waste of time, and most great books are followed up by mediocre books. For example, Doyle Brunson's Super System should be on every poker player's bookshelf. Super System II? Pretty much a wasted read. Daniel Negreanu put out a book that has only one chapter worth reading. The rest could be burned without care by the average poker player. But most poker players who write (and some who can't spell) can't help

themselves and put out book after regurgitating the same information over and over again. Having said that, this book is different. Vol 2 is a case study in how to be a poker player. If Vol 1 was a Bachelors Degree, the only description available for Vol 2 is Masters Degree. Moving beyond the math of poker, Vol 2 concentrates on specific personality traits, habits, and mindsets that are required to be a poker player. Knowing what the odds are in a particular hand is important, and Vol 1 covers that perfectly. Vol 2 then goes the next step and teaches why everything else associated with the hand is important. Then it discusses healthy living and why that is important. There's even pages devoted to why you shouldn't be playing poker at any given time. Very few poker writers have ever discussed in such detail why it is just as important to take your wife to dinner as it is to play poker, even if poker is your only way of earning income. I cannot possibly recommend both Vol 1 and Vol 2 enough.

I've played against Jon before, at the 2014 WSOP Millionaire Maker event, early on day one. I didn't know who he was at the time, but I remember thinking he was an extremely annoyingly hard-to-read loose aggressive player, who was way out of line at my very tight table. He was also the CO to my BB, so my perception may be skewed on that. He dominated the table for the couple of hours I played with him - stealing at will, and certainly employing all of his LAG teachings. Also of note was his exceptionally controlled, yet cool, demeanor. While some people who play "blank" seem robotic, Jon has a very human, but completely indifferent presence at the table. He seems unfazed by anything - on table or off. He also avoids all conversation. I remember trying to engage in conversation with him a few times (I'm chatty, and he was sitting right across from me in seat 1, while I was in seat 4), and he offered very succinct, yet polite responses. He gave the distinct impression that he was there to work - not to make friends, make enemies, or engage in small-talk in any way. The only conversations he initiated were with the dealer, about the hand in play (if he was in it). To bolster that observation, when Jon first joined the table, Erick Lindgren was sitting at the other end in seat 8. Jon never exchanged a single word even with Erick - just gave a polite nod in his direction and took his seat to begin playing. He's all-work at the table. So it would seem he plays verbatim by the rule he's outlined in this book series. I'm convinced he isn't holding anything back in his advice (not much, anyway). After I learned Jon was an author, I decided to buy all his books. I'm glad I did! This is, in my opinion, the best follow-up poker book of all time.

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