Luck of the Draw

World Series qualifier plays a hand in local league

Mag Joyce Staff Reporter

Kirksville resident and Truman alumnus Chris Mudd sees no shortage of intangible abilities in the game of poker.

He qualified for the World Series of Poker on Sept. 14. Mudd said his not-so-secret weapon was reading other players' behavior.

"I really don't have a lot of time to think about it," Mudd said. "I just watch and see what the other players are doing."

Mudd and his poker-playing partner, Senior Josh Jones, watch the World Series of Poker competition on television.

Mudd said he was the only one playing from Missouri, which means each player had to pay $200 to play.

"I might go play a couple of times a month at actual casinos, where they have little tournaments," Mudd said. "But I'm not big on that anymore."

The tournament at Harrah's in Kansas City, Mo., on Sept. 14, which Mudd won, was one of the qualifiers for the World Series of Poker.

Mudd said he would like to play poker more often, but he is wary of doing so too much.

"I don't want to ruin any of my other things," Mudd said. "I might have to work on my game a little better, but I'll still use it to practice occasionally."

Texas Hold 'Em Terms

Small Blind

The first bet posted by the player in the dealer's left. It is a forced bet. The small blind bet amount is equal to half of the minimum bet limit.

Big Blind

The first bet posted by the player to the dealer's left. It is a forced bet. The big blind bet amount is equal to the minimum bet limit.

Call

This is when a player places a number of chips in the pot equal to another player's bet.

Check

This is when a player wants to stay in the game without playing a bet. A player only checks if no other bets have been placed in the betting round.

Fold

This is when players throw in their cards. They give up any claims on the pot by changing for not having to contribute more chips to the pot.

Raise

This is when a player increases the amount of a bet made to him or her.

Pocket Cards

These are cards dealt face down to each player.

Mudd said he has been playing poker for about three years and plays at the local Kirksville Decklambs. Jones said he found out about the tournaments that take place at the local Kirksville Decklambs because" after he qualified for the World Series of Poker on Sept. 14, Mudd said he had the most important ability in poker players is intuition.

"Chris is smart, and the biggest key to winning is being smart and making good decisions," Jones said. "Mudd said most of the tournaments give you prizes, including the qualifying tournament in Kansas City, Mo., which gives the top 1,000 players $1,000, and the top 500 want to qualify for the tournament, you just get $10,000 worth of playing time for a year."

Mudd said other tournaments pay up to $700 or $800 for a prize.

But aside from cash, said the one of the many reasons Jones plays poker is the interaction with other players. "You get to play against other people, Jones said. "It's fun, you have something to do and hang out with all these other people." Jones said he plans to use his intuition and perceptive abilities in a new way.

He said he only began playing poker after watching TV.

"I used to watch World Series of Poker and think, 'Wow, I wish I was at that table,'" Jones said. "I just saw it on TV, and, like everybody else, I thought it looked like something I could do." Jones said he read a poker book he checked out of the library.

"I didn't know anything," Jones said. "I read about it so I'd have some idea of the rules of the game, so I wouldn't make a fool out of myself." Jones said he read about it so he wouldn't make a fool out of himself.

"I might go play a couple of times a month at actual casinos, where they have little tournaments, and then I play Tuesday at Patterson's and Sunday at the Dukum Inn," Mudd said.

Mudd and Jones both play at the local league at Patterson's and Sundays at the Dukum Inn. They said they are students, both from Truman and Kirksville.

Jones said he has been playing poker for about three years and plays at the local Kirksville Decklambs. Jones said he found out about the tournaments that take place at the local Kirksville Decklambs because of a friend who is also a regular player there.

"A lot of people play hands that they shouldn't be playing, whether I'm OK or not and we play anything," Jones said. "We're thinking they're playing a hand."

Mudd also said poker players have to be good at reading the other players, because they're playing against each other.

"It's something you can watch on TV and then do yourself," Jones said. "You can't go out and watch a World Series of Poker, but you can see it on TV and play cards.

Mudd also said poker players have to be good at reading the other players, because they're playing against each other.

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