

## Sticking Up To the Boss @ The WSOP



Richie G.  
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The Boss George Steinbrenner died, he was 80 years old. Growing up he was such a powerful figure to me. As a Mets fan, I didn't like or dislike him, I just thought he was really powerful.

In the 90's Seinfeld created a Steinbrenner character that acted pretty crazy. It was like a character of himself. But unfortunately, when I analyze Steinbrenner, I see a bully, that didn't always know what he was talking about. It reminded me of when I stood up to my boss in Vegas, who I deemed an incompetent bully.

His name was Rich B. and he was in charge of all the paid interns for the poker industry's top magazine during the 2006 World Series of Poker. He was also an agent to a few players, including the controversial Mike M. I apologize for initial last names; Rich B. is the law suit happy type.

I was extremely excited about the opportunity. The World Series of Poker is not just one tournament; it's a series of tournaments that go on for around six weeks. The magazine offered me around \$4,500 to cover the series, counting chips and watching hands so we can report to their website.

It was the most fun I ever had working. I absolutely loved the job, but unfortunately, I hated the boss and the company.

I knew there was going to be problems even before the WSOP started. We had to cover the Tournament of Champions. This was a tournament where past champions got together at the RIO. It was a great event. Instead of one or two poker celebrities at a table, everyone was a celebrity.

The interns were taken to the tables to watch what was happening and then report on it. Mike M. was arguing with Phil H., when Mike M. dropped the F-Bomb. Cursing was an automatic 10-minute penalty. Mike M. lied to the dealer, saying he didn't say it, and then tried to get the other players to agree he didn't say it.

When we went back to our computers, Rich B. said, "Obviously since I rep Mike, we can't say anything bad about him." Dream job over. As soon as Rich B. said that, I knew I was going to be in for a long summer. And I was right.

The poker website Fulltilt.net was a major magazine sponsor. So whenever a player sponsored by Fulltilt did something, we had to write at the bottom of the update something like, "Mike M. is a member of Team Full Tilt. He just doubled up."

Clonie G. was a member of Full Tilt. And she had approximately 4,000 chips and she knocked out a guy with 2,000 chips. So at the bottom of the update I wrote something like, "Clonie G. is a member of Team Full

Tilt. She just knocked someone out.” Almost as soon as I pressed enter, Rich B. radios in. He tells me Clonie G. just doubled up and I didn't put that she did. I told the grand pubah that Clonie G. didn't double up. If she had, she'd have 8,000 chips and not 6,000. He told me, “It doesn't matter, just write it.” I said no, because then I'd be lying. We got into an argument and finally he said just say she increased her chip stack.

The worst part of the story is he was training all these interns how to be journalists. So while I was trained by the great Ken Eckhardt of LI News Tonight, these impressionable 20-somethings were being trained by this dweeb!!

I would come in to the RIO, nicely dressed in khaki's and a button down shirt. None of the other interns dressed nice. I eventually got punished and had to report on some of the tournaments the fans didn't care that much about. But one day I got my big break. I noticed none of the dealers were sitting down. I made a few friends that were dealers and I asked one of them what was going on.

He said to me, “We're on strike. We're not going to deal today. Do you want to come and meet our representative?” I said of course, but let me speak to one of the floor men first. So I go over to a really stressed floor man and he said, “We will do anything the dealers want. We can't afford to lose a day.”

I told my friend I will meet the representative in a little bit, but I got to write this down and put it on the web. I happily ran towards the back where we kept our computers and I told Rich B. He told me don't worry about it. We're not going to report on it. We don't want to put anything controversial on the site.

I told him this is breaking news, it's an actual news story but I was immediately hushed. This was going to be bad, real bad.