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World Series of Poker Dream

Friday, April 15, 2011. It's known as Black Friday amongst the poker people. The day the U.S. Government seized the three biggest poker sites in America, and made it pretty hard to play poker online.

I was an online poker player. I used to play Saturday nights after work, and many hours on Monday. I wasn't great, but I made some money over the years. I won what I considered three "Majors." Now the pros would laugh that I call these "Majors" since the victories were for only \$600-950 bucks, but it felt great coming in first and beating 150 or so people.

Online poker helped me pay my rent at times. I owed money to my roommate Anthony, so I would just transfer some of my money to him, and he would mark it off the debt. (It was not a gambling debt)

The best part was the speeches I'd get about the danger of gambling. Gambling is a horrible thing. I used to have the gambling bug. Online poker helped take that bug away. I put in \$100 bucks in 2006, and I never put money in my account again. Little by little I rose that \$100 bucks to \$1,500 and then one day I came in 3rd place in a \$24 tournament, with around 1,800 people in it and made something like \$2,100.

I gave some of that money back over the years and finally a few months ago I came in 4th place in a similar tournament and I ended up with approximately \$3,700 when Black Friday hit.

Now I'm not here to discuss if America should have seized the company's or not. I don't know all the details. All I do know is one day it was legal to play, and the next day it wasn't. All I know is it took away my dream to play in the World Series of Poker Main Event.

I was going for it this year. I was playing really good poker both online and live. Online I was getting very deep in huge fields. And in my poker league, I started out really well, struggled in the middle because I was starving from my diet, but then decided to snack when playing poker and won 3 out of the last 4 weeks, and won my poker championship. I was about as hot as I ever was playing cards.

So my plan was to play online satellites to try and get into the Main Event. The Main Event is a \$10,000 buy-in tournament. The winner gets millions of dollars and never has to worry about money again. So needless to say, I am pretty bummed.

But a few weeks ago I decided to try and un-bum myself. The World Series of Poker has more than 50 events. And though playing in the Main Event is on my bucket list, so is just playing in the WSOP. So next year, I'm going to fly into Vegas, and play in one of the cheaper (\$1,000-1,500) events. I won't be on the really good run I was on, since there is no online poker, but at least I'll be at the felt. Where I feel I belong.

I'll leave you with a quote from the best poker movie of all time, Rounders. "First prize at the World Series of Poker is a million bucks. Does it have my name on it? I don't know. But, I'm gonna find out."