

31. A flush!

Game: \$25,000 WPT Championship

Hand: As-8s

Position: Small blind

Blinds: 1,000/2,000-300

UTG	+1	MP1	MP2	HJ	CO	Button	SB	BB
150K	60K	140K	130K	116K	250K	200K	180K	190K
					Villain1	Villain2	Hero	Villain3

The Play

Villain1 is a young player who has decent results despite often spewing off his stack. Villain2 is a solid young player who usually plays a tight, aggressive game. Villain3 is an older player who has not shown much aggression so far.

Villain1 raises to 4,500 and Villain2 calls.

Question 1

The action is on you in the small blind. What do you do with A♠-8♠?

- a) Fold
- b) Call 3,500 more
- c) Reraise to 15,000
- d) Reraise to 20,000

You decide to call and Villain3 also calls. The flop is K♠-K♦-9♠.

Question 2

The pot is 20,700 and the effective stack size is 187,000. What is your action?

- a) Check
- b) Bet 7,000
- c) Bet 13,000
- d) Bet 18,000

You decide to check. Villain3 checks, Villain1 checks and Villain2 bets 9,000.

Question 3

The pot is 29,700 and the effective stack size is 187,000. What is your action?

- a) Fold
- b) Call 9,000
- c) Raise to 23,000
- d) Raise to 37,000

You decide to call and everyone else folds. The turn is the (K♠-K♦-9♠)-3♠.

Question 4

The pot is 38,700 and the effective stack size is 178,000. What is your action?

- a) Check
- b) Bet 7,000
- c) Bet 17,000
- d) Bet 27,000

You check and Villain2 checks behind. The river is the (K♠-K♦-9♠-3♠)-8♥.

Question 5

The pot is 38,700 and the effective stack size is 178,000. What is your action?

- a) Check
- b) Bet 7,000
- c) Bet 17,000
- d) Bet 27,000

You bet 17,000 and Villain2 quickly folds.

Discussion and answers

Answer 1

- a) 0 b) 5 c) 3 d) 3

Out of position, you should always consider a reraise preflop, especially when your opponents are fairly loose. If you elect to reraise, as long as your sizing is reasonable, between 15,000 and 22,000, you should be fine. Making a smaller or larger reraise would result in ei-

ther everyone calling or everyone continuing with only premium hands, both of which are bad results. Against good, aggressive opponents, you are probably better off calling to see a cheap flop.

Answer 2

a) 10 b) 3 c) 7 d) 2

When you are first to act in a multiway pot with a flop that almost certainly hit one of your opponents, you should tend to check, even with a strong hand like a flush draw. On a paired board, you have to be careful to not pile all the money in because you may be drawing dead.

Answer 3

a) 0 b) 10 c) 8 d) 2

When you are getting excellent immediate odds, there is nothing wrong with calling, hoping to peel your flush. If your opponent bet larger, cutting down on your immediate odds, you could raise in order to gain some fold equity. A small raise is the only good option besides a call because if your opponent has a K, he will never fold and if he has worse hands, he will fold regardless of your raise size.

Answer 4

a) 10 b) 2 c) 8 d) 2

If your opponent was a bad player, you could consider a bet of around 17,000, hoping to get paid off by either a K or a 9. Since your opponent is good, your best option is to check and hope to get one street of value on the river unless your opponent also has a premium hand, as he will almost certainly pot control with his entire range. This is a difficult spot to get a lot of value simply because you are out of position and the board is paired. When you have a draw,

you want to be drawing to the nuts in position, not the second nuts out of position.

Answer 5

a) 2 b) 2 c) 10 d) 4

As expected, your opponent checked back the turn. It is mandatory you realize this does not mean he has a weak hand. His range is something like a K, 9, busted draws, and air. Against that range, a medium sized bet is ideal because he will call any bet with a K, some bets with a 9, and no bets with his busted draws and air. If you have a good read on your opponent, you can bet larger or smaller based on his perceived range.