

## **Poker Tip No. 14**

**March 30, 2013**

### **Subject:               Managing a Tournament – Late Stage**

Tom McEvoy, in his book, “How to Win No-Limit Hold’em Tournaments” discusses how to play the late stage of a tournament. As below:

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The late stage of a tournament is usually comprised of rounds 7, 8 and 9.

Note: At our SCG Tuesday and Thursday tournaments, that would be (somewhere around) blinds 400-800, 500-1000, 1000-2000 and 1500-3000.

By the end of round 9, you are either in the money or so close to it that you can smell it. In many instances you will still be playing short-handed until a table breaks and the empty seats at your table are filled.

In these rounds we suggest that you play aggressively according to your table position. Actively attack the blinds; if you are successful a mere one time per round, you will have earned enough chips to pay for your blinds and antes for the next round.

Do not play the role of sheriff or terminator. You do not have to call raises or bets with marginal hands. Leave that to the other players.

Unless you have a strong hand, don’t try to knock players out. Be careful when you raise with marginal hands as you may force a short stack into playing against you. This is another good reason to always keep track of your opponents’ chip stacks.

With a medium stack:

- You certainly do not want to double-up a short stack and become one yourself.
- You would rather attack medium and big stacks because they do not want to play against you. Why? Because you can cripple or knock-out a medium stack, and a big stack has to be careful not to double you up. If that happens, he’ll become a medium or small stack while you take over his position as top dog.

If you are a short stack:

- You must find a hand and go with it.
- Do not allow yourself to become so low in chips that you will get played with no matter what you have. Since you do not have enough ammunition to scare anyone out of a pot, your opponents will come after you.

If you have a big stack:

- Determine who is trying to hang on to make the money and move up the ladder. These players will lay down hands and allow you to accumulate even more chips.
- You want to preserve your chip stack, but you don’t want to play conservatively in the process. Continue your controlled aggressive style of play.