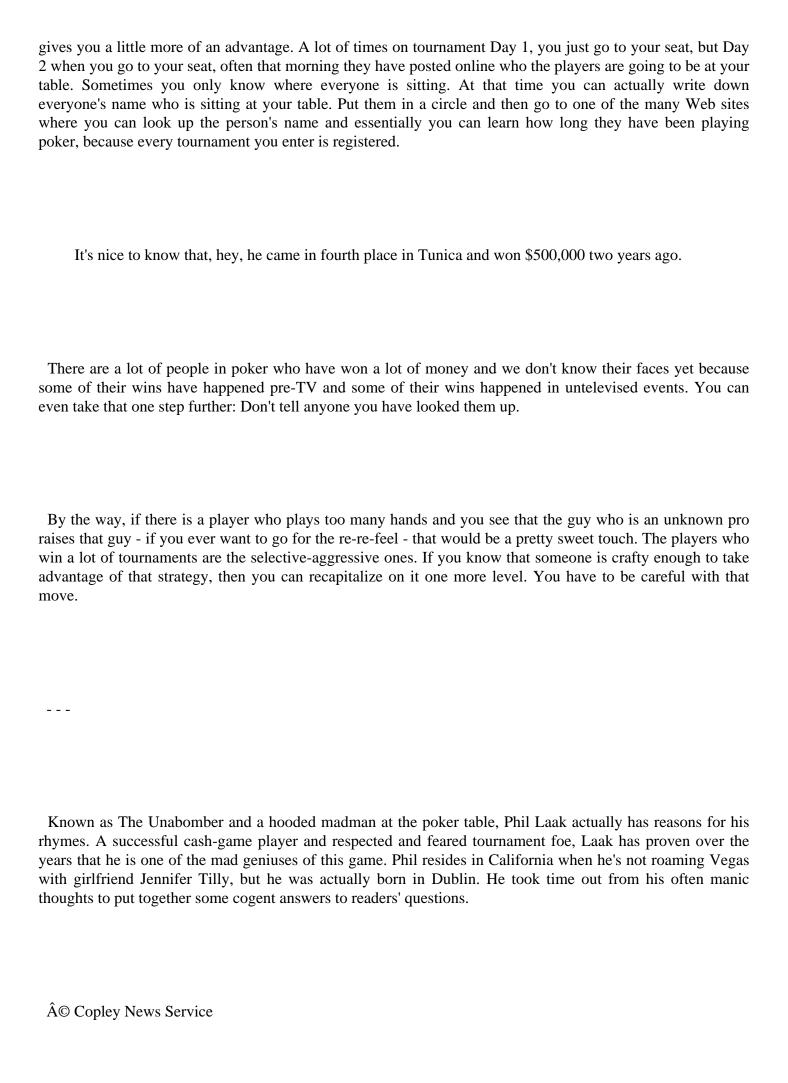
by Phil Laak Q: I was told it was bad etiquette to ask to see someone's hand. What about if they are flashing it to other players at the table? - Jesse, Dublin A: That's interesting because you never want to be the person asking, but you definitely are curious. What I like to do is hope someone else asks, PHIL LAAK - Phil Laak is a successful cash-game player and respected tournament foe. Born in Dublin, he now lives in California, when not roaming Las Vegas with girlfriend Jennifer Tilly. CNS Photo courtesy of Joe Coomber. but I never ask myself. I can't do it - I'm always really curious, but I'm never the guy who asks. Now, the rules are that if someone shows someone else the hand, everyone is allowed to see it if someone asks. Usually when someone shows the guy next to him, he usually wants someone to say, "Show the hand." Then he usually wants to put up a little resistance, but he usually wants the hand to be shown because it is usually a bluff. It is usually the nuts or a bluff. It is either a demon hand or nothing. I would say 70 percent of the time it is nothing and 30 percent of the time it is a very big hand or a very big draw. Q: How much time should I be spending profiling players at a table? - James, Newcastle A: The key thing to profiling players, first of all, is their hand-entering frequency and how they handle themselves during pots. The things you are supposed to be paying attention to are how often someone comes into pots and from where are they coming into pots. As far as profiling, that sort of just comes naturally to you at the table, but there is something you can do that

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