

Poker Pro's Corner: Poker is all about knowing how to play situations

by Shawn Rice

Q: If you are one of the chip leaders in a tournament and you raise early with A-K, and get a call behind you from the other chip leader, should you still make a continuation bet after a missed flop - if you know he is aggressive?

SHAWN RICE - UltimateBet Internet pro Shawn Rice spends his time traveling for tournaments and playing online. Rice has won thousands online and continues to impress live with cashes totaling more than \$330,000. CNS Photo. - Kathy, New London, Conn.

A: For sure, I like the continuation bet for my certain style. I have a tight, solid image so I play my image. Forgiving my image, I think it is always the right play to make a continuation bet because the math factor and my image factor always makes it the right play.

Q: I have my favorite 'lucky' hand, 8-10. Is it OK to play this hand or should I avoid the 'lucky hand' mentality?

- Lady Luck, Las Vegas

A: It is unlucky to be superstitious about any hand. Don't play hands that are favorites or lucky ones, it's not about that. It is about knowing how to play situations - that is winning poker.

Q: How do you keep your spirits up when you are in one of those runs where you are racking up bad beat after bad beat?

- Ben, Long Island, N.Y.

A: How you keep your spirits up is by having confidence in your ability. You are in the boxing ring. You are in there fighting and you have to think you are the best fighter and you have to adapt to every situation. If you take a bad beat, the dynamics change, and the dynamics of the whole table change. You need to understand those dynamics and use them in your best interest.

Q: What's the basic strategy for a six-person sit-n-go?

- William, San Mateo, Calif.

A: For six-man sit 'n' gos, really, when you are playing six-handed, it is a whole lot different from playing 10-handed. Almost any hand that equals 20, like in playing blackjack, whether it be A-9 or any two face cards, you should come in raising. You should hardly ever limp in - maybe blind vs. blind it is OK to limp, because you are heads-up. Even if you have aces, it is OK because you are heads-up. If you have aces you want to be in a heads-up situation, so that is perfectly fine. What you want to do is play a little more aggressively. The blinds and antes come around a whole lot quicker and you play a whole lot more situational poker six-handed - you look for weaknesses and try to exploit them.

UltimateBet Internet pro Shawn Rice spends his time traveling for tournaments and playing online. Rice has cashed online for thousands and continues to impress live with cashes totaling more than \$330,000.

© Copley News Service

Poker Pro's Corner: Poker is all about knowing how to play situations by Shawn Rice