

Poker Pro's Corner: Hand strength determines the next move

by Jon Friedberg

Q: If you are the short stack, would you rather push all in late with no limpers or raisers, or would you rather re-push?

- Shoving Shawn, El Cajon, Calif.

A: I want a situation with fold equity. If I don't have enough fold equity by re-pushing, then I would prefer just to be the first one in the pot. It also depends **JON FRIEDBERG** - Jon Friedberg won a World Series of Poker bracelet in 2006 and made a 2007 WSOP final table in pot-limit hold'em. CNS Photo. on hand strength. Once someone makes a raise, they are kind of telling you there is a good chance they have a hand. When you are re-shoving them, you better have a good hand because you are more likely to get called there than you would being the first one in the pot. I guess I would say unless I have a good hand, I would rather just shove all in, not re-shove. If I have a hand like aces, kings or A-K, I would rather re-shove, because I actually want to get called there.

Q: What are your thoughts on limping with 2-2 or 3-3 in early position in the middle stages of a tournament?

- Stuart L., Lompoc, Calif.

A: I don't like to limp with small pairs in the middle or late stages. In early position I think it is important to either raise them or fold them, I don't really like to limp. In the early stages of a tournament I think it is OK, but in the later stages you typically don't have enough chips and that's usually when people start tightening up, so I think you really have to play your small pairs aggressively from the middle stages onwards. Either raise them or fold them.

Q: What are the pros of playing limit poker over no-limit? I can't figure out which is best for me.

- Italian Dude, Pompano Beach, Fla.

A: The good thing about playing limit is that unless you are short-stacked you can't go broke in one hand. The bad thing is you really can't take advantage of your opponents as much as you can in no-limit. You can trap someone for a few bets in limit, but you never are able to bet enough to get them off of their draws like you can in no-limit. The only good thing I would say about limit hold'em is that you can't lose as much in one hand as you can in no-limit. The other good thing is you can draw for cheap to a flush draw. The biggest bet you are going to call is what the limit is unless it is bet and raised in front of you. You won't have to worry about calling a pot-size bet with a flush draw.

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Thirty-four-year-old professional Jon Friedberg sat down this month to answer readers' questions. While attending college in Arizona, Friedberg started playing a bit and since then has sat at his fair share of poker tables, even picking up a bracelet at the World Series of Poker in 2006 in a \$1,000 no-limit hold'em event with a massive field of 2,891 players. The Vegas resident now has 15 cashes for close to \$1 million. In addition to his bracelet, Jon made a 2007 WSOP final table in pot-limit hold'em, was ninth in the 2007 PokerStars Caribbean Adventure and finished eighth in the WPT's Mirage Poker Showdown last year.

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