

Foxen First in MSPT Tourney at Venetian

By Dave Lukow

William Foxen claimed first in the Mid-States Poker Tour (MSPT) \$5,000 NLH event at the Venetian in Las Vegas. Event 69 of the Venetian's DeepStack Championship Poker Series, the competition had a prize pool of \$1 million.

Foxen took the top spot after a chop with the second-place finisher - who's also his girlfriend - Kristen Bicknell. A New York resident, Foxen was paid \$239,000.

When the final table was down to two players, Foxen and Bicknell, the couple agreed to take \$200,000 apiece. They then played for first place and the remaining \$39,000.

The \$200,000 payout pushed Bicknell's career take to more than \$2 million. She's a native of St. Catharines, Ontario, not far from Canada's border with the U.S.

Foxen's earned more than \$4.3 million via live events.

Australia's Kahle Burns (third) took away \$120,000.

There were 178 participants.

Phong "Turbo" Nguyen (fourth) earned \$85,000, while the player finishing fifth, Blake Whittington, of Jacksonville, Fla., pocketed \$65,000.

Joey Weissman (sixth) added \$51,000 to his bankroll. Originally from Syosset, N.Y., Weissman has won more than \$2.3 million on the live circuit. He already has a pair of cashes at the 2018 WSOP, including a fifth-place finish in Event 17.

It's been a prosperous year for both Foxen and Bicknell. He was sixth in Event 2 of the WSOP, a showing that paid \$63,042. He won Event 63 of the WPT L.A. Poker Classic in February. The victory was worth \$424,625.

Overall, Foxen has three wins and 11 cashes in 2018.

Bicknell outlasted 116 other players to win Event 2 of the Asia Pacific Poker Tour (APPT) Macau and has cashed three times at the WSOP, her best finish coming in Event 20, where she was 24th. That performance added \$14,572 to her lifetime winnings. So far, she has 16 cashes this year.

Burns was fifth in Event 16 of the 2018 WSOP, a showing worth \$31,086.

The MSPT has two tournaments yet to be decided at the Deepstack Championship Poker Series. A \$1,600 event runs at the Venetian from June 18-22. On June 25, a \$3,500 competition gets underway.

