



Greg Raymer

“I only appear to be wacko; in reality I’m much worse.”

Personal Notes

Originally from North Dakota

Patent lawyer by occupation

Likes to collect fossils and uses them as card protectors

Plays a lot at Foxwoods in Connecticut

Resides in Stonington, Connecticut

Greg Raymer is not a name that was widely known before the 2004 World Series of Poker. But after his mega-win of \$5 million dollars at the main event in 2004, it is not a name that is likely to be forgotten. Before this big win, Greg’s best tournament finish was third in the main event at the World Poker Finals in Foxwoods, Connecticut in 2001.

Greg “Fossilman” Raymer is a corporate patent attorney by trade. He loves to play poker, especially at the Foxwoods casino which is near his home. But he also plays online poker where he won his entry into the World Series at pokerstars.com. He says he entered a \$160 double Shootout about a week before the main event started, though he would have paid the \$10,000 entry fee himself had he not won it. This was the Second World Series of Poker that Greg has entered. The previous year he paid his way into the tournament. And he is the second consecutive online player to win the tournament.

The “Fossilman” gets his nickname from his passion for collecting fossils. It became a poker nickname when he began to use fossils as card protectors. One can imagine that the fossil he used in his World Series win will become his lucky charm.



Greg played nickel, dime poker in college and only started playing seriously after he entered a charity game in Chicago. It prompted him to do some studying of the game, which he did through books and practice. He says that he has been playing poker seriously now for 10 years.

Greg’s wife and daughter accompanied him to Las Vegas this year to see him defeat a field of 2,575 people from all over the world. He not only won the largest cash prize in poker to date, but also beat the largest field of entrants, up from 839 the previous year. Greg felt that everything went right for him from day one of the tournament. He claims that

he didn't even feel the effects of playing in a tournament that lasted for seven days.

"For some unknown reason, I was very calm and very focused all week long," states Greg matter-of-factly. "I made very few plays

that I thought were mistakes at the time the decision was made." He admits that he would like to know what it was that kept him on an even keel during the week of the tournament. "[Then] I could ensure to repeat it every tournament."



"Practice for free or for small stakes, and work your way up by winning your way up."

-Greg Raymer

Seven hours after the finals began, Greg, who had the chip advantage over his opponent, David Williams, matched David's all-in call. They both had full houses but Greg's eights over twos beat David's fours over twos and his name went down in the World Series records as the 2004 winner. Though understandably, Greg was jumping for joy over his victory, he modestly admitted, "I played well but I was the luckiest."

Pictures of Greg playing poker with his sunglasses on beg the question as to how he ever decided to wear something so bizarre at the poker table. "Two years ago," he answers, "I was on a family vacation to Disney World, and saw them in the Tower of Terror gift shop, about a month before the main event. I just had to wear them at the table, and did so." To some degree this reflects his motto: "I only appear to be wacko. In reality I'm much worse."

According to one commentator it would be difficult not to like this "amusing, intelligent and affable player," who is "a credit to the game." Another describes his play at the final table as "relentless," and goes on to say that "he raised pots and was not afraid to come over the top with spectacular re-raises as well." Let's not forget that he also outlasted the respected 1995 WSOP champion, Dan Harrington at the final table, not to mention the host of other memorable players who did not make it to the finals. The odds on Greg before the tournament (according to Pokertropolis) were 400-1. Mathematically speaking they will probably be a lot better next year!

Greg Raymer has shown everyone that he is no longshot when it comes to outlasting the best. When Benny Binion established the World Series of Poker, it's probably safe to say that he could not have seen, in his mind's eye, his winner facing a field of 2,576 entrants or winning a prize of \$5 million; and he certainly would not have imagined the part that computers would play in getting the winner to the tournament. Greg Raymer has accomplished what Benny Binion could never have envisioned and he is to be congratulated for his success.

Major Poker Accomplishments

2004, First place, WSOP, No Limit Hold'em Championship

2000, Third place, World Poker Finals, No Limit Hold'em Championship