

= Joe Cada =

Joseph " Joe " Cada (born November 18 , 1987) is an American professional poker player from Shelby Charter Township , Michigan , best known as the winner of the Main Event at the 2009 World Series of Poker (WSOP) .

By winning the 6 @, @ 494 @-@ entrant Main Event at the age of 21 , Cada surpassed Peter Eastgate as the youngest champion ever . Cada had two previous WSOP in the money finishes , both in 2009 . Cada had been a regular online poker player for several years prior to winning the live WSOP event . He is primarily an online poker player , with more than \$ 500 @, @ 000 in online tournament winnings at present . As of August 2014 , his total live tournament winnings exceed \$ 10 @, @ 290 @, @ 000 . Cada became a representative of Team PokerStars in 2009 in the weeks prior to becoming World Champion . On June 18 , 2012 , he lost heads up in the 2 @, @ 811 @-@ entrant \$ 1 @, @ 500 No Limit Texas hold ' em event at the 2012 World Series of Poker .

He is from a family of card enthusiasts although his parents disapproved of his chosen profession . His agent dubbed him " The Kid " and he has also taken on the role as a statesman of the profession in the media and political circles , where he is a proponent of legalization of gambling .

= = Career = =

= = = Summary = = =

Cada started playing online poker at about the age of 16 . He twice staked accounts , but lost all the money in the accounts that he shared with his brother Jerome . His first online account was with PartyPoker . Although he was not legally able to play in casinos prior to age 21 in the United States , he could in Canada at age 19 and play online . After a brief sabbatical from the game subsequent to losing his money , he began to play at a casino in Windsor , Ontario across the Canadian border from his Detroit @-@ area home . He earned enough to enter contests in the Bahamas and Costa Rica .

At the time of his WSOP success , he was playing approximately 2 @, @ 000 hands per day online at PokerStars under the User ID jcada99 . Cada had been a professional poker player for six years at the time of his world championship . Between the end of 2008 and the 2009 November Nine , Cada had earned \$ 551 @, @ 788 online . Prior to the tournament , he had a \$ 150 @, @ 000 downswing that necessitated him finding a financial backer for the WSOP . Professional poker financiers Eric Haber and Cliff Josephy paid his entry fee in exchange for half of his winnings .

Cada enjoys playing the " Sunday Major " tournaments at various online sites and says he honed his skill pursuing the knowledge and experience of better players at online training sites . He typically hosts many poker playing friends on Sundays to keep each other company while going through the grueling Sundays of playing the various majors . Usually , on Sundays , Cada hosts about fifteen friends to play online at his house . According to his CardPlayer magazine profile , Cada used several similar aliases to play with various online poker hosts : jcada99 and Joe Cada on the Full Tilt Poker website , jcada99 on PokerStars and JCADA99 on Absolute Poker .

= = World Series of Poker = =

= = = 2009 World Series of Poker = = =

At the 2009 World Series of Poker he had three in the money finishes (all in No limit Texas hold ' em) : 64th in the 1 @, @ 088 @-@ entrant June 5 ? 7 Event 13 , \$ 2 @, @ 500 No Limit Hold ' em , which earned him \$ 6 @, @ 681 ; 17th in the 2 @, @ 095 @-@ entrant June 16 ? 18 Event 35 , \$ 1 @, @ 500 No Limit Hold ' em , which earned him \$ 21 @, @ 533 ; and 1st in the 6 @, @ 494 @-@ entrant July 3 ? 15 , November 7 and November 9 Event 57 \$ 10 @, @ 000 World Championship No

Limit Hold 'em , which earned him \$ 8 @, @ 546 @, @ 435 .

Prior to his final table victory , Cada earned a \$ 1 million contract with PokerStars that pays for all his hotels , travels , and some of his buy @-@ ins . His signing with Pokerstars resulted from an interview on ESPN with Phil Gordon where he expressed an interest in signing with that specific company . His agent had already procured him offers from UltimateBet and PokerHost as a result of his November Nine qualification . Cada was represented by agent Dan Frank .

In the main event , Cada was the tournament chip leader after day 1C , which was the third of the four opening day sessions , but he began the final table with the fifth largest chipstack . In the 122nd final table hand Cada 's stack was reduced to 2 @, @ 275 @, @ 000 ? enough for only four big blinds and about 1 @. @ 2 % of the combined total stack at play ? due to calling Jeff Shulman 's " all in " pre @-@ flop with A ? J ? against A ? K ? . No community cards hit either player , and Shulman was rewarded by his better high card . Cada later went all in twice pre @-@ flop with small pocket pairs and was dominated by higher pocket pairs on both occasions , once with 3 ? 3 ? vs. J ? J ? and the other with 2 ? 2 ? vs Q ? Q ? . Both times Cada flopped the winning three of a kind . By the time the field was reduced to two players he had 135 million chips to 58 million for Darvin Moon . During the final heads @-@ up duel , Cada surrendered the chip lead , but he eventually climbed back to 120 @. @ 1 million before the last hand of the heads @-@ up with Moon . He regained the chip lead on the 80th hand . His winning hand was 9 ? 9 ? , which he got all @-@ in pre @-@ flop against Moon 's Q ? J ? . The board ran 8 ? 2 ? 7 ? K ? 7 ? . This hand was the 88th hand of heads @-@ up play between Cada and Moon .

These three events account for his total cumulative career live event earnings of over \$ 8 @. @ 5 million . With the November 2009 victory , which occurred just over a week before his 22nd birthday , Cada supplanted Peter Eastgate , who won at age 22 , as the youngest World Series of Poker Main Event champion . He was 340 days younger than Eastgate had been at the time of becoming world champion . In the week following the WSOP win , Cada made numerous publicity appearances as a poker ambassador . His media events included appearances on CNN , CBS News , CNBC , Late Show with David Letterman , numerous ESPN outlets including First Take , The Scott Van Pelt Show , ESPNU , ESPNNews , ESPN Inside Deal and ESPN.com as well as a taping for SportsCenter that was never aired plus a visit to WWE Raw . During the publicity run , Dennis Phillips served as Cada 's advisor .

He has a total of seven cashes in the World Series of Poker , with three in the 2009 event , two in the 2011 event and two in the 2012 event . Aside from his main event win , his most notable WSOP finish was second in the 2811 @-@ entrant June 16 ? 18 , 2012 \$ 1 @, @ 500 No @-@ Limit Hold 'em Event # 31 , which earned him \$ 412 @, @ 424 .

= = Personal = =

Anne Cada , Joe 's mother , is a blackjack card dealer at the MotorCity Casino . Cada has an older brother , Jerome . Cada 's father , Jerry , was affected by the late @-@ 2000s recession when his automobile industry job was eliminated in a layoff . During the 2009 World Series of Poker 's November Nine , dozens of Cada 's fans wore T @-@ shirts with Michigan Wolverines team colors (maize and blue) with the words , " PokerStars Michigan Joe Cada ' The Kid ' " emblazoned across the front and Michigan baseball caps with " The Kid " on the back . His agent came up with the nickname " The Kid " . In an interview in Time , Cada estimates he had about 100 friends in his cheering section .

In the Time interview , Cada expressed his thoughts on legislation related to the legality of gambling : " I support the right to play poker online . Poker isn 't gambling . It 's a hobby , an activity , a game . It 's not about luck ? it 's about logic , decision @-@ making , math . We all should be able to play poker on the Web if we want to , and I believe that making it illegal strips us of our rights . This is an important issue , and hopefully we 'll see it resolved soon . " Outside of poker , Cada also plays indoor soccer . As of 2009 , he was considering purchasing a second home in Las Vegas , Nevada and possibly opening a bar .