

SA poker team does us proud

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What a week it's been for SA poker lovers. Warren Zackey from Piggs Peak Casino sponsored Team All Africa Poker has finished in 22nd place at the 2009 World Series of Poker (WSOP) in Las Vegas. Zackey's Pocket Two's saw him exit the tournament, however he still leaves Las Vegas with a tidy US\$352,832 for his effort. That is roughly R2.87 million! Zackey is the second Southern African poker player to progress this far at WSOP. In 2007 Ray Rahme made it to the final table and took 3rd place, putting Southern Africa on the global poker map and raising the profile of poker in the country. This year Rahme played a strong game but was eliminated earlier in the Main Event. Despite his phenomenal achievement, Zackey remains humble. When interviewed on the All Africa Poker Channel Zackey thanked his family and fans for their ongoing support. Zackey has had some defining moments during WSOP, the most notable of which was finishing as chip leader for Day 5, a first for any player from SA. He also knocked out Leo Margets, the only female left in the main event. Zackey wasn't the only member of All Africa Poker who did SA proud. Robert Kay took 7th place in Event 56 and was the first Southern African player participating in this year's WSOP to make it to the top 10 in a bracelet event. Both Ryan Brauer and Melanie Banfield made it into the money and both cashed. All Africa Poker Commentator Ryan Brauer was the 2nd best finisher from Team All Africa Poker when he exited in 500th position. With a starting field of more than 6,494 players, the 2009 WSOP final table will take a break for the next four months and commence play again on 7 November. Known in the poker world as the November Nine, the remaining players are Darvin Moon, James Akenhead, Phil Ivey, Kevin Schaffel, Steven Begleiter, Eric Buchman, Joe Cada, Antoine Saout and Jeff Shulman, arguably one of the most talented Main Event final tables to have been assembled in years. As the All Africa Poker Team concludes its WSOP journey, it leaves South Africa ranked in 26th position on the 2009 WSOP World Standings. No mean feat when comparing SA's 23 players to the USA's top ranking with nearly 20 000 players! Stats are based on the number of players, wins/bracelets and total money earned.

If you missed any of the action or video footage, you can go to the All Africa Poker website (www.allafricapoker.com/poker-blog.aspx) follow All Africa Poker on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/allafricapoker>) and become an All Africa Poker fan on Facebook. You can also follow the tournament on www.worldseriesofpoker.com.

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