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**BRAINERD MACHINIST SCORES POKER PAYDAY AT
GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS**

ONAMIA, Minn. – Matt Hyland learned to play poker with his sister in the backroom of his parents' antique shop. His time at the antique shop appreciated in value on Sunday, September 27, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs when the 25-year-old became the latest champion on the Heartland Poker Tour (HPT). Hyland's final hand, king-queen, appraised at \$49,932.

Still close with his sister, Hyland juggled the festivities surrounding her wedding on Saturday, September 26, with qualifier rounds on the HPT. Sacrificing their honeymoon, the newlyweds cheered on Hyland, a Brainerd machinist, from the rail. When a second queen appeared on the flop, a big week for the Hyland family got much bigger.

"Maybe a better wedding present is in order for your sister," joked HPT Commentator Chris Hanson.

Heads up against Hyland, Amy Muller, 44, was one of two women who made the televised final table Sunday night. Having two women playing for a championship was a first for the nationally-syndicated show.

Muller of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has played HPT events for five years without success. Sunday's payout of \$24,966 will ensure she continues to play.

The other woman at the table, Wendy Woodgate, 56 from Devlin, Ontario was hoping her gender would give her an advantage over the men at the table. Her plan seemed to work until a series of fours left her in fourth place. Woodgate naturally went all in with king-queen, picking up another queen on the flop. A four on the flop for Hyland's pocket fours sent her on her way with \$11,651.

Hyland had a habit of picking up just what he needed on the flop Sunday night. Holding ace-six off-suit late in the match and facing an all-in against Brainerd business owner Ron Imgrund, Hyland flopped triple aces. Imgrund indeed went all in with queen-jack, sending him to the rail in third place. Imgrund, a regular at HPT stops, aspired to make a final table by his 50th birthday. Having turned 50 in April, he declared, "close enough" as he collected \$14,980.

Another Brainerd man, Kurtis Fentress, earned a spot on the televised set playing his first HPT event. When nothing materialized for his ace-queen, the 29-year-old law enforcement student won \$8,322 in sixth place. “This is the biggest prize I’ve ever played for,” said Fentress, aside from the time he met his wife while playing poker.

Fifth-place finisher Tom Burri, 41, has played in a half-dozen HPT events over the years. Finally making it to the televised set, at least a portion of his \$9,986 will go towards future stops on The Heartland Poker Tour. “I’m going to Vegas!” Burri announced, referring to the launch of Season Six for The Heartland Poker Tour this January at Red Rock Casino Resort Spa.

About Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, which are owned by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, are two of Minnesota’s premier entertainment facilities, offering gaming, accommodations, dining, conference and banquet facilities, live entertainment and The Grand Harmony Spa at Grand Casino Hinckley.

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