

## **JASON MERCIER WINS WSOP 'PLAYER OF THE YEAR' AWARD**

*Two bracelets, four final tables and 11 cashes: \$960,424*

*One engagement: priceless*

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – July 20, 2016 – Jason Mercier has established an unsurmountable lead in the 2016 World Series of Poker Player of the Year award, cementing his status as one of the best tournament poker players in the world. This award comes just weeks after a runner-up finish in the Spring Championship of Online Poker (SCOOP) Overall Leaderboard in May on [PokerStars](#), an Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA) brand. The two achievements are a remarkable result for this member of Team PokerStars Pro who has demonstrated versatility at all forms of poker – both online and live.

“I am honoured to receive this award. There are so many tough players that every year have a great shot of winning this title, and I’m fortunate to have been able to have a successful summer at the tables and come out on top. I played almost every single event of SCOOP in May, which was in hindsight the perfect preparation for a tough summer of poker,” said Jason Mercier.

Daniel Negreanu, fellow member of Team PokerStars Pro and two-time WSOP player of the year winner, said, “The Player of the Year race is a very special honor and no one is more deserving than Jason for his accomplishments in 2016. What a run he had playing against the world’s best and consistently putting up results. A great player who is highly skilled in every form of poker. Very happy for him.”

At the World Series of Poker this year, Mercier has had a remarkable run, with two victories, one second place, and one eighth place, for a total of four final tables among 11 cashes.

In addition to collecting bracelets for himself at the WSOP, Jason Mercier also gave away a ring at a WSOP final table as he proposed to his girlfriend Natasha Barbour. Barbour made the final table of the \$5,000 No Limit Hold’em event, and after she was eliminated in third place, Mercier proposed to her. She said, “Yes,” rounding out a summer of success for Jason, both on and off the table.

### **JASON MERCIER 2016 FINAL TABLE RESULTS**

\$10,000 2-7 Draw Lowball Championship – 1st place – \$273,335

\$10,000 Seven Card Razz Championship – 2nd place – \$168,936

\$10,000 H.O.R.S.E. Championship – 1st place – \$422,874

\$10,000 Omaha Hi-Low Split-8 or Better – 8th place – \$39,269

For further information, please contact: [press@pokerstars.com](mailto:press@pokerstars.com)

### **About PokerStars**

PokerStars operates the world's most popular online poker sites, serving the global poker community. Since it launched in 2001, PokerStars has become the first choice of players all over the world, with more daily tournaments than anywhere else and with the best online security. More than 155 billion hands have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.

PokerStars.com and PokerStars.eu operate globally under licenses from the Isle of Man and Malta governments, respectively. PokerStars also holds local licenses or approvals to offer services to players in many jurisdictions, including Italy, France, Estonia, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, United Kingdom, Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, Ireland, Romania and New Jersey in the United States of America.

PokerStars is the flagship brand of Rational Group, which operates gaming-related businesses and brands, including PokerStars, Full Tilt and the European Poker Tour. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Rational Group companies in the UK and Isle of Man was recognised as one of the top 25 best places to work by the Great Place to Work Institute's Best Workplaces – Large category ranking. Rational Group entities in Costa Rica and Dublin also achieved the same accolade in their respective local rankings in 2014. PokerStars is ultimately owned by Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA).

