

the
INSIDE Straight™

VIDEO POKER NEWS FOR THE CASINO PROFESSIONAL

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IT'S A WHOLE NEW GAME.



In this issue ♦



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LUCK OF THE DRAW IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MATH

John Daley *Director of Video Poker ♦ IGT*



Lucky socks. Lucky penny. Lucky video poker machine? We know darn well the games play out based on the theoretical hold percentages, miles of random number generation, and mathematical algorithms that make high school calculus look like preschool fodder. Why, then, does it feel like we hear the same dream-come-true story over and over: "I just walked by, had a feeling, stuck in \$20, and *BOOM* hit Megabucks*!"—that seems to embody the very definition of plain old LUCK?

At one time or another, we have all had a lucky break or two. Do you ever wonder just how likely or frequent these "freak" bouts of luck are? Let's take a look at some definitive data—calculated using the

Winning Hand	Deal Frequency (Theoretical)	Draw Frequency* (Theoretical)
Royal Flush	649,740	40,799
Straight Flush	72,193	9,123
Four Aces + any 2, 3, or 4	216,580	16,236
Four 2's, 3's, 4's + any Ace, 2, 3, or 4	72,193	6,983
Four Aces	72,193	5,761
Four 2's, 3's, 4's	24,064	2,601
Four 5's through Kings	6,016	613
Full House	694	92
Flush	509	88
Straight	255	78
Three of a Kind	47	13
Two Pair	21	8.1
Jacks or Better	7.7	4.7
Nothing	1.26	1.81

* Theoretical draw frequency will vary slightly per optimal playing strategy associated with different pay schedules.

optimal playing strategy for Double Double Bonus Poker® with a standard 9/6 pay schedule.

Using the Four Aces winning combination information in the table above as an example, a player can expect to be dealt four aces in one of every 72,193 hands of video poker. That same player can expect to receive a four aces combination after the draw in one of every 5,761 hands.

There you have it. Luck has nothing to do with it—but you'll probably still think twice about it anyway.

HIGH LIMIT, BIG ACTION

ENTERTAIN PLAYERS & MINIMIZE JACKPOT LIABILITY

By Sal Lambert *Video Poker Product Specialist, Western Region ♦ IGT*

It's a delicate equation many customers fear: Multi-hand game action + High-limit denominations = Potential for jackpot liability. Some properties feel the answer is simply to exclude powerhouse multi-hand favorites, such as Super Times Pay® Poker and Ultimate X Poker™, rather than take any chances. Well I am here to tell you it can be done! You can bring big action—and big income—to your property while minimizing risk. It just takes a little thought when configuring these popular game themes.

Our multi-hand themes represent a dominating 90%-plus presence in most casino video poker areas, and with good reason! These games deliver top-notch game play experiences consistently, year after year. Integral to that success is the rush to those very high top awards. How high is very high? Let's take a look at a popular threesome: Super Times Pay® Poker awards 400,000 coins; Ultimate X Poker™ awards 480,000 coins, and the newly released Double Super Times Pay Poker™ tops out at a whopping 800,000 coins.

Here are a few examples of how fine-tuning the denominations available to each set of hands, or even eliminating a set entirely, can be the successful solution:

To keep the jackpot exposure in his high-limit room to a minimum, one of our customers in California has configured his Super Times Pay® Poker machines with the Triple Play Draw Poker® version in dollar denomination only and the Five Play Draw Poker™ version in quarters only, and he has turned off the Ten Play Draw Poker™ as an option entirely. These actions limit the jackpot exposure to \$240K.

Another example comes to us from a customer in the Southern Region. Their approach weighs in on the most cautious end of the scale, with their Super Times Pay® Poker machines offered only in the Triple Play Draw Poker® format with 50-cent denomination, bringing the exposure down to a mere \$60K.

Another customer from the Western Region has decided to go in the other direction, truly putting the ultimate in Ultimate X Poker™. Their machines are configured with a high-limit denomination range from \$1 to \$10 (\$1 through \$5 on Ten Play Draw Poker™). With those kinds of wagering options, Ultimate X Poker™ delivers mega-multiplying potential that will dazzle players with a whopping \$2.4M jackpot.

Really, the only question you should be asking is not "Should we put multi-hand themes in the high-limit room?" but "How high can we push the jackpot for our players?"

Multi-hand themes
represent a dominating
90%-plus presence
in most casino video
poker areas, and
with good reason.

REFRESH FIFTY PLAY DRAW POKER™ & HUNDRED PLAY DRAW POKER™

*Add Super Times Pay® Poker
to them on your floor*

Michael Drummond
Video Poker Product Specialist ♦ IGT

This new theme reinvigorates classic Fifty Play Draw Poker™ and Hundred Play Draw Poker™ performance by adding a thrilling, never-before-seen level of action from the multipliers of Super Times Pay® Poker. Operators will see an increase in coin-in as players opt for this exciting buy-a-pay feature.

The conversion chip comes with the original theme as well as the Super Times Pay® Poker version, ensuring that players who prefer the traditional version can still play that theme. The new versions, including the original theme, contain a much-requested, long-awaited operator configurable minimum bet option. Selecting a higher minimum bet can be used to discourage one-coin, one-hand players from monopolizing a machine. Additionally, the game comes loaded with 16 popular game families and uses the same 14-button player panel as the original game. The game screen features familiar tabs on the top of the screen—just like the tabs on popular themes Game King® and All-Star Poker®. This great game is available in penny, two-cent, nickel, dime, and quarter denominations. It is progressive capable in multiple denominations.

The top awards have been capped to eliminate any issues with jackpot liability. The top award is 560,000 coins for Fifty Play Draw Poker™ with Super Times Pay® Poker, and 1,120,000 coins for Hundred Play Draw Poker™ with Super Times Pay® Poker.

Take it for a test drive today at
VideoPokerForCasinos.com.

THAT'S A WRAP ♦ —

Great themes at G2E to add to your floor.

Mike Fields *Executive Vice President ♦*
Action Gaming/VideoPoker.com

Every year at the G2E show in Las Vegas, we get an excellent opportunity to talk with operators from all over the country. We discuss games, trends, and player habits, and we get valuable feedback regarding our multi-hand poker games—both old and new. The following games received the best reviews.

Double Super Times Pay Poker™

The most typical operator feedback we got about this game was almost unanimous: “This is a no-brainer!” In virtually every market, Super Times Pay® Poker has proven to be one of the top-performing video poker games on nearly every casino floor where it is offered. This new version of the game gives players even more multiplier excitement without changing what they love about the game theme. The game is low risk and has immediate player recognition.

Widely available now, and nearly 200 have already been shipped.

Hundred Play Draw Poker™ with Quick Quads Poker®

This game was enthusiastically received, especially after folks played a few hands. Operators commented that the game was “really fun” and “going to be a big hit.” The Quick Quads Poker® feature works extremely well in these high-hand game versions. For example, in a dealt 3-of-a-kind, a player expecting to get 2 or 3 natural quads will now receive 6, 7, or even more quick quads. Each quick quad has an auditory celebration along with a pause for effect—making the game akin to a jackpot buffet where you can get 8 and 10 quads at a time.

The conversion chip includes traditional Fifty Play Draw Poker™ and Hundred Play Draw Poker™, ensuring that players get two game options. Operators can introduce a minimum bet through the operator-configurable feature included in these new programs.

Available now, and dozens have already shipped in several jurisdictions.



“Players love to spin wheels, so they’ll love making and spinning their own wheel!”

Game King® Version 6.3

We got a lot of positive feedback on our newest version of Game King®, and for a lot of good reasons. Many operators said this new version was an excellent way to “freshen up our core poker products.” One key feature is that this version includes new 4-card versions of Caveman Keno®, Caveman Plus Keno™, Power Keno®, and Cleopatra® Keno. These games will no doubt be extremely popular with keno players and will increase coin-in.

As you would expect, this new version of Game King® also includes nearly four dozen video poker games, 13 video slot games, and an improved blackjack game.

Available to be shipped in mid-2011.

Hundred Play Draw Poker™ with Super Times Pay®

This game was exceptionally well received and also considered a “no-brainer” because of its configurable options as well as the entertainment value it delivers. One of the key factors is the operator-configurable minimum bet—designed to discourage a non-max bet player from monopolizing the machine. Further enhancement to the program is the inclusion of both a Super Times Pay® version of Hundred Play Draw Poker™ as well as the traditional Hundred Play Draw Poker™ version—ensuring that a purchase of this conversion chip is essentially risk free.

Available for purchase in early 2011.

All-Star Poker®

As one of the most successful themes in the history of IGT Video Poker, All-Star Poker® has more than earned its name and was once again an object of much interest

at the show. The program is essentially a “greatest hits” of multi-hand video poker games and is present on virtually every casino floor throughout the United States. Many casinos are starting to realize exactly how flexible and profitable this program can be in locations other than the main floor—specifically in high-limit rooms and on bar tops.

Widely available now, dozens were sold through the G2E Show Special.

Build A Wheel Poker®

This newcomer was immediately popular with operators, and they were heard to say, “Players love to spin wheels, so they’ll love making and spinning their own wheel!” The premise is quite simple: During game play, dealt hands of different jackpot categories earn credit values on a wheel slice. The wheel consists of eight slices; two are pre-filled with values of 4,000 and 100 credits. The remaining six slices are filled as winning combinations are dealt. A dealt full house automatically fills the wheel.

Look for this game to be available around mid-2011.

Now is the perfect time to refresh your selection of video poker products, and we’ve got great options for you to consider. Please contact your Video Poker Product Specialist or John Daley directly, at 702-669-3268 or at John.Daley@IGT.com, with any questions.

If you want to refresh your memory of any of these games, or if you want to play them for yourself, you can find free play versions and brochures with payable options and top awards at www.VideoPokerForCasinos.com/Try

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Strong regional preferences exist for game family choices ♦

Shannon Bloom *Video Poker Product Specialist ♦ IGT*



IGT offers more than 50 game families in our popular multi-game suites, so it can be a challenge to understand and capitalize on the sometimes-subtle differences in game play complexity, volatility, and unique pays. Another important factor to consider when selecting games is regional game family player preferences. One game family—Double Double Bonus Poker®—reigns supreme in properties across the country, but other game families have large followings in various markets across the United States.

Atlantic City Nowhere in the country will you see more Joker Poker™ than in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Atlantic City's affinity for Joker Poker™ is rooted in the longtime use of the game as both a standalone progressive and a citywide linked game. What player doesn't love a game family synonymous with big wins?

Joker Poker™ differs from other game families mainly because it's played with a 53-card deck instead of a 52-card deck. As the name implies, the additional card is a joker, which acts as a wild card. The top award on many hands is a 5-of-a-kind.

Detroit Detroit, Michigan, video poker players like their game families rare. Pick-a-Pair Poker® is a unique game seldom even optioned anywhere else in the country, yet in Motor City it gets top billing. Generally considered an easier strategy to learn than most other video poker games, this game family can be fast-paced fun.

Pick-a-Pair Poker® displays four cards to the player. The two cards dealt on the left begin the final hand. The player then picks which of the two cards on the right will be added to the final hand. The last two cards of the hand are revealed after the third card is picked.

Chicagoland The area surrounding Chicago, Illinois, is characterized by very strong video poker play. These Midwestern

players have a preference for “super” programs. High on the list are the game families of Super Double Bonus Poker™ and Super Double Double Bonus Poker™. What does “super” add to these games?

Super Double Bonus Poker™: Although the pay schedule doesn't offer huge jackpots, it does pay 600 coins for a new jackpot category: four jacks, queens, or kings; and 400 coins on the oft-ignored straight flush.

Super Double Double Bonus Poker™: This game is essentially Super Double Bonus Poker™ with kickers. The kickers generate more 4-of-a-kind categories than most other games, resulting in the big entertainment of high volatility.

California California is leading the country with a new trend that is spreading east to other jurisdictions: players looking for the excitement of high-volatility game families. This trend has resulted in a huge rise in play on Triple Double Bonus Poker™.

Triple Double Bonus Poker™ offers a strategy that is very challenging to master, yet has the potential for big payouts. The top award of 4,000 coins, usually reserved for Royal Flushes, is also awarded for quad Aces with a 2, 3, or 4 kicker. Seasoned players who make a quad or two early in the game will be in the hunt for big jackpots.

Wherever you are located on the map, we advise optioning the top six game families on the majority of your machines. If you are looking to add some variety, consider adding two unique game families at a time to your mix and see if they generate interest from your players. Contact your Video Poker Sales Specialist for general configuration and specific regional recommendations for game families in your jurisdiction.

SUPER STAR POKER®

BOOST WIN AND PLAYER SATISFACTION

Nikol Abelman *Video Poker Product Specialist ♦ IGT*



Super Star Poker® provides the broadest variety of games in one suite that players have ever seen. It is specifically designed to bring a maximum number of game choices to each machine in bars, taverns, and high-limit areas. To take full advantage of the offerings in this great package, I suggest using the following recommendations for optimal configuration.

Game Family Choices

Bonus Poker®, Bonus Poker® Deluxe, Double Bonus Poker®, Double Double Bonus Poker®, Deuces Wild Poker, Deuces Wild Bonus Poker™, Triple Double Bonus Poker™, Joker Poker (NJ), and Jacks or Better

Setup Recommendation

Theme Choices* (Paytable cover sheet abbreviation)	Max Coin	Denomination	Top Award/ Coins
Single-Hand Play	5	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	4,000
Triple Play Draw Poker® (3P)	15	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	15,000
Five Play Draw Poker™ (5P)	25	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	25,000
Ten Play Draw Poker™ (10P)	50	Nickel, dime, quarter	50,000
Spin Poker™ 9-Line	45	Nickel, dime, quarter	36,000
Super Times Pay® Poker (ST)			
Triple Play™	18	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	120,000
Five Play®	30	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	240,000
Ten Play™	60	Nickel, dime, quarter	400,000
Ultimate X Poker™ (UX)			
Triple Play™	30	Nickel, dime, quarter	144,000
Five Play®	25	Nickel, dime, quarter	240,000
Ten Play™	100	Nickel, dime, quarter	480,000
Blackjack	10	Dollar, two-dollar, five-dollar	2 to 1

Theme Choices* (Paytable cover sheet abbreviation)	Max Coin	Denomination	One Coin	Max Coin
Spot Keno	8	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	10,000	80,000
Four-Card Keno	20	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	10,000	200,000
Cleo Keno	8	Quarter, 50-cent, dollar	10,000	80,000
Multi-Card Keno®	80	Nickel, dime, quarter	10,000	800,000
Wolf Run® Video Slots	400	Penny, two-cent, nickel	40,000	400,000
Double Bucks™	90	Nickel, dime, quarter	32,407	324,070
Super 8 Race®	80	Nickel, dime, quarter	50,000	98,800
Cleopatra® 9-Reel	80	Nickel, dime, quarter	2,285	22,800
Black Rhino®	90	Nickel, dime, quarter	41,000	410,000
Coyote Moon® Video Slots	400	Penny, two-cent, nickel	40,000	400,000



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For more information, please contact Greg Brown, greg.brown@videopoker.com 425-820-8235



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