

College campus poker plays globally

The excitement of on-campus gambling is coming to Kwantlen where scholarships are up for grabs

By Alex Tagert

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Eight people turned out September 16 for a Friday night poker game that the Kwantlen Student Association says is a warm-up for coming intercampus competitions.

Inter-campus championships are still in the plans and KSA staff representative Kayce Hopwood attributes the slow and gradual progress to difficulties in co-coordinating different schedules of the other Kwantlen campuses.

At the Friday showdown, the last two opponents were Hopwood and Chris Bruchet but they decided to split the winnings and call it a night. The competition began at 5:30 pm and carried on until nine in the evening. "The school closes at 10 so we

had to call it a tie," says Hopwood.

Poker games have been a normal part of campus life but with the increasing popularity of TV coverage of tournaments and celebrity poker, it comes as no surprise that schools and online rooms are catching on.

A new form of gambling is in the making where students play for scholarships.

The College Championship is an online Texas Hold'em No Limit poker competition where entry into the tournament is entirely free with all events being played with tournament chips.

Approximately \$70,000 in scholarships are up for the grabs as well as \$10,000 in charitable donations.

The last tournament drew in 25,000 students from 55 countries

from around the world.

The tournament is run by Colleg-



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-Cannon Singh

ePokerChampionships.com which is a not-for-profit entity that receives tournament support and sponsorship from RoyalVegasPoker.com.

The event takes place over a 12-

month period and during this time 18 preliminary events are played with a minimum of 30 students qualifying each week for the semi-finals.

Eligible students must be 18 years or older and must provide their name, an e-mail address, any contact number, student ID and expected graduation date.

In addition to the required information they must also provide their school's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, and the phone number of the charity or the university club they've decided to donate some of their winnings to. Students must also download a free version of the Royal Vegas Poker software.

This year's competition began

on May 29 and will continue to be played until June 18, 2006 when the final event will take place.

Gambling addictions are becoming a problem and according to the Canada West Foundation combined provinces in the country spent \$28 million dollars on problem gambling treatment programs in the year 2000. But manager of the Vancouver recovery Club Cannon Singh does not see the growing trend of campus poker becoming a problem.

"Not everyone will become addicted to poker," says Singh "It all depends on whether or not the person has an addictive personality."

"Colleges have pub crawls but that doesn't mean that all of the students will necessarily become alcoholics," says Singh.