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2007 Queen of Hearts Team Thumbnail Biographies



Carla Christofferson and her business partner, Kathy Goodman, become the majority owners of the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks in December 2006. As a long-time fan, Christofferson plans to ignite passion for the WNBA and the Sparks, and to create an entire community of fans, players and community leaders who support the team and the WNBA. In addition to her new entry into the sports world, Christofferson has spent the past 15 years as a litigation attorney with the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers. She is currently a partner in O'Melveny's Los Angeles office and was recognized as a Southern California "Super Lawyer" in 2005 and 2006. Christofferson also is a member of several non-profit boards of directors, including the Los Angeles Public Library Foundation and the Women's Care Cottage. A graduate of the University of North Dakota, *summa cum laude*, and Yale Law School, Christofferson is a native of Tolna, N.D. (population 240). She was crowned Miss North Dakota in 1989 and is a recipient of the 2007 University of North Dakota Young Alumni Achievement Award. Christofferson first honed her poker playing skills in 1994 while in Anchorage, Alaska for the *Exxon Valdez* trial and has played semi-regularly in "friendly" games since that time.



Clonie Gowen started playing poker while living in Dallas where she had to drive to Shreveport, Louisiana on weekends to find a game. With nearly \$500,000 in career tournament winnings since 2002, Clonie has steadily built a reputation as one of the toughest competitors in the game. She earned national recognition when she followed up her Top 10 finish at the World Poker Tour Costa Rica Classic with a win at the WPT Ladies' Night event in 2003, then the highest rated WPT show ever broadcast. She made two more television appearances in 2005, placing seventh in the \$2,000 No-Limit Hold 'em Ultimate Poker Challenge tournament and third in the "FullTiltPoker.Net Championship at Wynn Las Vegas." In 2006, Clonie again demonstrated her skills at the table by placing third in the "FullTiltPoker.Net Pro Showdown at the Red Rock Casino." Clonie has served as a guest commentator for the Ultimate Poker Challenge and the European World Poker Championship in Dublin. She's a regular columnist for All In Magazine and is on the Board of Directors for the United States Poker Association, a non-profit association with a strong influence in the world of poker. Clonie frequently hosts tournaments and charity events and is now a partner in a poker school teaching women (and men) the basics of tournament play, and how to be successful in a competitive game where your own money is at stake.



Susie Isaacs is best known for being the first woman to win the *World Series of Poker* Ladies Championship back-to-back in 1996 and 1997. In 1998, she placed 10th in the *World Series of Poker* \$10,000 event. She became the second woman in history to accomplish such an outstanding finish. In the 2006 *World Series* main event, she placed in the top five percent out of a record-breaking field of 8,773. She is also the only woman to have written five books on the subject of poker including her upcoming *Life is the Gamble*. Susie is part owner of Susie Isaacs' Designer Gaming Jewelry.

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Joanne Jishung (J.J) Liu was born and raised in Taiwan. After college, she moved to the U.S. to pursue a master's degree in computer science, graduating from Bradley University in Peoria, IL. She had never played Texas Hold 'em until she entered a tournament at the Bay 101 Casino in 1996. Shortly thereafter, she played in her first *World Series of Poker* event and finished fourth. She would go on to finish in the money in more than 40 major tournaments around the world, including nine more cash finishes at the WSOP - including two final tables. As a result of her impressive performances, she was the highest-ranked woman in Card Player Magazine's 2005 Player of the Year competition. Most recently she won the World Poker Tour's Ladies' Night IV event.



Mary Jones, the 2006 *World Series of Poker Ladies No-Limit Hold'em* Champion, beat out 1,127 other women to take home nearly a quarter million dollars and the coveted gold bracelet. Mary lives in Las Vegas now, but was raised in Dallas, Texas, where she played cards with her family for fun. Today, Jones is taking time away from a successful business career to pursue her passions – professional poker and community service. With her *World Series* win, Mary joins the ranks of the elite as the winner of the biggest and richest women's poker tournament in history.



Jennifer Leigh mastered the game of poker playing on virtual felt where she is known as Jennicide. Last year she moved into the live poker arena with true determination. Her efforts paid off with three significant finishes in the money while playing major tournaments around the world. Jennifer has appeared on television in a broad range of poker related shows and has been featured in numerous trade and entertainment publications.



Mylene Leitner was born in Manila, Philippines and moved to Los Angeles, California with her family when she was eight years old. Mylene's father is an avid poker player, so she has been around the game her entire life. She has always enjoyed working with numbers, spending many years in accounting, and this talent for numbers has helped Mylene become quite a talented poker player.



Mary Magazine is an attorney licensed to practice in Florida and New York. She spent eight years as a sitting Magistrate for Miami-Dade County, Florida. As a founding and current member of the Board of Directors of the Poker Players Alliance, she continues to be an active advocate for the legalization of online poker in the United States. Mary was motivated by her poker-enthusiast husband of 26 years, Joel, to learn the game of poker. She has played in many poker charity events in Florida and in several *World Series* events.

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Isabelle Mercier, a Canadian, attended the University of Montreal where she obtained her degree in Law, then practiced for only a year before moving to Paris, where she pursued a master's degree in International Law at Sorbonne University. She soon switched gears to become the poker room manager of the Aviation Club de France, and never returned to the practice of law. After five years in Paris, Isabelle sold all her belongings in order to fund her new life as a professional poker player. She was instantaneously nicknamed Isabelle "No Mercy" Mercier, because of the aggressive style of poker she used to defeat her opponents in the WPT Ladies Night II event. Isabelle has accumulated more than \$500,000 in poker tournaments winnings.



Stacie Orloff, President of Corum U.S.A., began her career in her father's jewelry store in Fresno, California. After college, she worked for a bit as a stockbroker before accepting a sales position with Gucci Timepieces, ultimately becoming the U.S. Director of Sales before taking a position with Mont Blanc as V.P. Sales in North America. In January 2000, Orloff became President of Corum U.S.A., the luxury watchmaker. In July 2002, she received the Award of Excellence from the Women's Jewelry Association and in June 2006 was recognized as one of InSync magazine's 2006 Women of Distinction. Since Corum U.S.A. is a sponsor of the World Series of Poker, Stacie, who loves poker, has decided to throw her cards in the Queen of Hearts Team.



Crystal Osgood-Gray is the president of the Ladies Poker Association (LPA), and www.LadiesPokerAssociation.com, established to recognize women in the sport of poker-providing, membership, an online magazine, news, education and events. As part of the LPA mission, she established a ladies professional ranking system and launched the LPA Pro Tour in March of 2007, the first series of high buy-in Ladies events. Osgood-Gray is a serious amateur player with 20 years of tournament and live poker experience. She has made numerous final table appearances, recently finishing first at the 2006 LA Poker Classic Ladies WPT Event.



Mimi Rogers continues to be one of the busiest and most versatile talents in Hollywood, continually challenging herself with an eclectic assortment of acting roles and producing projects. Mimi was most recently seen on television in the half hour sitcom THE LOOP, for Fox, and on the big screen in "The Door In The Floor," opposite Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger. Rogers made her mark as a producer with the critically acclaimed "Harlan County War." She also produced the Holocaust drama, "The Devil's Arithmetic" under her Millbrook Farm Productions banner and Dustin Hoffman's Punch Productions. Starring Kirsten Dunst, Brittany Murphy and Louise Fletcher, the film made its debut on Showtime in April and garnered two Emmys. Mimi is also an accomplished poker player, having distinguished herself in Hollywood's top private home games, and then gone on to acquit herself very well in the World Poker Tour's Hollywood Home Game and WPT Championship. She also sits on the board of World Poker Tour Enterprises.

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Vanessa Rousso, known as the “Lady Maverick” of poker, is a 24-year-old professional poker player and law student. She is also the 2006 World Poker Tour World Championships 7th place finisher and winner of the 2006 \$5,000 Buy-In Borgata Open. A dual-citizen of the USA and France, Vanessa's upbringing spanned two continents, four states, and half a dozen schools—taught in four languages. She currently attends the University of Miami School of Law, where she is ranked in the top five percent of her class. In one year of play on the WSOP and WPT circuits, Vanessa has risen through the ranks to become the top female money earner (with more than \$680,000) in 2006 and one of the top-ten females *of all time*. She has cashed in four World Series of Poker events, including an 8th place finish in this year's \$5,000 Short-Handed No-Limit Hold'em event. Most recently, she achieved her inaugural first place victory on the circuit at the World Poker Tour Borgata Open, where she won almost \$300,000.



Elizabeth Shepard has been a real estate broker in California for more than 25 years, and is currently in a successful practice with her son. In 1986, she married Bruce Shepard, now a retired partner from PricewaterhouseCoopers and presently Chief Executive Officer of Las Vegas Gaming, Inc. Bruce says “that it was in our unwritten marriage contract that Liz learn to play poker.” Liz graduated from local tournaments to playing in her first *World Series Ladies* event in 2006.



Anne Spinetti, a native of Lahti, Finland, came to the USA in 1980 to stay with friends and visit the country. She ultimately stayed and married Mike Spinetti, who has been a life-long poker player. After watching him for years, Anne received a computer game in 1992, began playing at home and found that she really enjoyed the game. Over the last 15 years, she has played in more than 1,000 tournaments around Vegas, including the main event at Binion's with a number of final-table finishes. The highlight of her many victories was winning the Ladies' event at the Hall of Fame Classic at Binion's in 1997.



Lisa Tenner spent 20+ years guiding the careers of successful rock n' roll bands, before moving her talent-building and brand-marketing savvy to the corporate world. Her company Tenner & Associates, Inc. recently produced the first Rock & Roll Celebrity Poker Tournament, now airing on VH1 Classic. She has also co-produced the World Poker Players Conference in 2005 and 2006 and co-produced the Official Kick-Off Party for the *World Series of Poker* in 2005. In 2007, Lisa received the honor of being awarded the Event Producer of the Year by Event Pro Forum. The Queen of Hearts Team was created and co-captained by Lisa in 2006 and, with resounding success and the tremendous gratitude of the American Heart Association, Lisa has returned in 2007 to produce and lead the Queen of Hearts team once again.



Jennifer Tilly became seriously interested in poker when she started dating professional poker player Phil Laak. In 2005, she won the WSOP Ladies' Tournament and followed that with a first place win at the WPT Ladies Night III, making her one of the few players to win both a WSOP bracelet and a WPT title in the same year. Since then, she has appeared on *Poker Superstars*, *Celebrity Poker Showdown*, *Poker Nations*, *The Pro-Am Equalizer*, *NBC's Poker After Dark* and the *NBC Heads Up* tournament. Recently she won the first annual Paul Hannum charity tournament, and finished fifteenth in the Borgata Open. Film audiences know her for her many roles in films such as *Liar Liar*, *Bound*, *Let It Ride*, *The Getaway*, and *Bride of Chucky*. She was also nominated for an Oscar for her memorable turn as Olive in *Bullets Over Broadway*. Upcoming films include *The Caretaker*, *Intervention*, *Made In Romania*, *The Silver Valley* and *Art in Las Vegas*.

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Lisa Wheeler is vice president and managing editor of Push Magazine. In 2005, she reported for PokerWire.com at the WSOP. She recognized the need for worldwide poker tournament coverage and went on to create and design PokerPressBox.com, a website that transmitted live-update coverage of multiple poker tournaments simultaneously from around the world. In 2006, Lisa joined Card Player as a contributor and is best known for her exclusive “Las Vegas Beat” reports and hundreds of unique photographs. Her most recent accomplishments include helping to stage the Jennifer Harman S.P.C.A. benefit at Caesars and the Junior Women’s League of Chicago’s Windy City Nights event.