



So, what possibly and probably happened at the 2008 WSOP Main Event Final Table? Well, I'm going to combine the two: what possibly and probably happened was massive collusion and deal-making. There was simply too much money, and more importantly, too much time for it not to happen. What makes this scenario probable is that there was no dominant chip-leader going into the final table the way there was back in 2006 when Jamie Gold had a commanding chip lead that he turned into a championship and \$12 million.

With nearly all the nine players very much in the hunt at the start of play, and only one short stack, the collusion cheating opportunities were endless. In fact, if you take all the possibilities and combinations of any or all of the nine players entering into prearranged prize-money sharing, there are more than a million different ways to cut up the giant cake.

Is there a possibility that nothing of the sort happened and there were no prearranged deals or anything else resembling collusion play? Sure there is, but it's slim. If anyone could relate to this theory and back it up, it might be ex-WSOP Main Event champ and accused mastermind of the \$60 million UltimateBet online poker scam Russ Hamilton. He was the Main Event winner in 1994, and he probably could wipe out that 'slim' margin with testimony to his own experiences at the WSOP final table. In any event, I could hardly imagine that 114 days are going to pass without conspiring, scheming, planning and everything else that leads to cheating. Just think of all that time these nine players, including short-stacked Kelly Kim, had to communicate.

Are you wondering how they might have communicated? Well, it starts with simple emails, then steps up to instant messaging, then phone

calls and then, well, why not a pre-final-table final table? What I'm talking about is a meeting of all nine players around an oval table in a cozy restaurant or lounge, maybe like the Peppermill on the Las Vegas Strip, the same cozy lounge that I often used with my cheating buddies to map out strategies for hitting the casinos on the Strip. There, the 'November Nine' could sip champagne and relish in thoughts of the money they knew they would get. Well, maybe they wouldn't be brazen enough to meet in a public place like that but they could've rented a suite at the Bellagio and snuck up to it unnoticed. However they chose to do so, 114 days is a lot of time to plan and scheme.

And if you think for one minute that this could not happen (next year as well if they decide on the same Main Event format), then you probably watch too much ESPN. [GOM!](#)