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## The History Of Let It Ride Poker

By Adel Awwad

Of all the card games being played today, it is undeniable that Poker is one of the most popular, as well as being one of the most famous. People get attracted to the sheer excitement of the game, the thrill of putting one over another player and of course, the big winnings that go along with it.

Because of its popularity, Poker has been adapted into a number of versions and has been regarded as an international card game. It has since evolved from being a simple household or neighborhood game into a professional, high-stakes competition that attracts aficionados from all over the world.

One of the Poker variations that has evolved and has garnered strong following is Let Them Ride Poker. The game, which is loosely based on the popular card game, was developed by the Shuffle Master Gaming Company. The purpose was to increase the sales of their automatic shuffling machines to land-based casinos. It first debuted in Reno, Nevada in 1993.

Let It Ride Poker is based on the Five-Card Stud Poker Game, which gives casino guests the chance to control two out of three bets wagered on an actual Poker game. Players have the option to pull out their bets if they don't like the way their hand develops or "let it ride", as the name of the game indicates, if they want to proceed. Let It Ride Poker is comparable to games like Video Poker, Pai Gow Poker and Caribbean Stud Poker, which are new breeds of games based on the classic game of Poker. However, unlike the usual game, Let It Ride Poker is a single-player game, in the sense that the player competes against the machine and not the banker or other Poker players.

To date, Let It Ride Poker has flourished to become a very interesting and competitive game with a strong following. And why not, when it is patterned after one of the most successful card games of all time?

The game tests a player's intellect and strategy. While luck can win the player a round or two, it is no match to wits and a sheer knack for the game. Let It Ride Poker is a thinking game - each move should be well thought-out before it is enacted. Otherwise, it could make or break the whole game. This is the goal of Let It Ride Poker - to add spice and sizzle to an already electrifying game.

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## **How To Play Let It Ride Poker**

**By Adel Awwad**

The chance to win big. The possibility of luck being on one's side. The sheer thrill of making a gamble. These are three things that a game of Let It Ride Poker can guarantee. Unlike casino games that seem to rely solely on good fortune, this variation of poker requires deft skill and brains to actually win. So while lady luck may smile on a player for a few rounds, it will ultimately boil down to a test of wits.

While Let It Ride Poker is a single player game and has been considered as a game for smaller monetary bets, it never lacked in the excitement factor. This is because unlike other card games wherein it is required to increase the amount of the bets, Let It Ride Poker actually allows the player to reduce his bets when he feels like it. The player has full control of the game, thus making winning - or losing - entirely in his hands.

Let It Ride Poker is played on a blackjack-sized gaming table. Prior to the start of the game, the player is required to make three bets in equal amounts. After making the bets, he is given three cards that are dealt face down. After this, two other cards (called "community cards") will also be dealt face down at the top of the table. The goal of the game is to create the strongest hand of poker possible.

After the five cards have been dealt out, the player can decide whether or not to let his cards ride or if he wants to pull them out. Letting it ride means that he believes that his cards have the possibility of forming the strongest poker hand while pulling them out means removing one of his three bets from the playing table. After the decision has been made, the dealer then turns one of the community cards up and gives the player the option to remove his second bet. It should be noted that the second bet is not dependent on the first bet. The second community card is turned over after this round and with all the five cards opened, the player's win is determined. This is done through the "payoff" square of the betting table.

Let It Ride Poker also has a special feature called the "Side Bet". Through this feature, the player can have additional winning combinations when he places a \$1 bet on the "Side Bet Playoff" square.

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