

Weekly Study Session





CHIP BULLYING

How to Use Your Stack to Pressure Opponents

Topics

- When to apply pressure
- Which stacks to attack
- Which stacks to avoid
- Tournament examples
- Common mistakes

Goal:

Turn your chips into fold equity instead of waiting for premium hands.



- **What is Chip Bullying?**
- Chip Bullying = Using your stack to make opponents uncomfortable.
- You don't need the best hand.
You need your opponent to fear elimination.
- **Chip Bullying Works Because:**
 - Players hate busting tournaments.
 - Medium stacks want to ladder.
 - Recreational players overfold under pressure.
 - Big stacks can survive mistakes.
- **Remember:**
You're not bullying with cards.
You're bullying with stack pressure.





The Different Stack Sizes

Short Stack

(5-15 BB)

Goals:

- Find profitable shove spots.
- Survival comes first.
- Can't really bully.



- Medium Stack
- (20-40 BB)
- Goals:
- Defend wisely.
- Pick spots carefully.
- Avoid tangling with huge stacks.



- with two cards to come.

Big Stack
(50BB+)

Goals:

- Open more pots.
- Apply pressure.
- Force folds.
- Control the table.





Who Should You Attack?

Best Targets

- ✓ 20-35BB stacks

Why?

- They can still fold.
- Busting hurts.
- They don't want to gamble.

- ✓ Tight players

- Waiting for premiums
- Easy to exploit

- ✓ Players near the money

ICM makes everyone tighter.

Fear is your biggest weapon.



Who Should You Avoid?

Not every player is a good target.

Avoid:

✗ 8BB stack

They're looking for a double-up.

They're calling much wider.

✗ Bigger stack than you
They can bully YOU.

✗ Calling stations

They don't fold.

Never bluff players who hate folding.

Bluff more in position.





Real Example

Hero

80 BB

Cutoff

A♦5♦

Button

26 BB

Very tight player

Money bubble approaching.

Hero raises.

Button folds.

Blinds fold.

Result:

You win without showdown.

Question:

Did our cards matter?

Answer:

Not much.

The stack pressure won the pot.



•Big Stack vs Medium Stack

•Situation

•Hero

75BB

•Hijack

•K♠9♠

•Opens to 2.2BB

•Button

24BB

•Thinking...

•Thinking...

- Thinking...
- Finally folds.
- Why?
- Because calling creates difficult situations.
- Three-betting risks tournament life.
- Folding is safest.
- Your chips forced the fold.



When Chip Bullying Fails

Hero

65BB

Button

7♣5♣

Small Blind

9BB

Hero raises.

SB jams.

Hero folds.

Problem?

You attacked someone who isn't folding much.

Short stacks are desperate.

Choose better targets.



Biggest Mistakes

✗ Bullying everyone

Not every stack folds.

✗ Ignoring ICM

Pressure changes dramatically near money and final tables.

✗ Bluffing calling stations

Bad idea.

✗ Overvaluing your cards

Often your stack matters more than your hand.

✗ Becoming predictable

If you're opening every orbit, observant players will fight back.



DCP Takeaways

Great Chip Bullies...

- ✓ Attack medium stacks
- ✓ Respect short stacks
- ✓ Pressure tight players
- ✓ Increase aggression near bubbles
- ✓ Stay balanced
- ✓ Let their chips do the talking





"Poker is a lot like sex.
Everyone thinks they are
the best, but most don't
have a clue what they are
doing." - Dutch Boyd

