2010/2011 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Seven
Final Results: Horseshoe Hammond
Event #3
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: $1,000 (+100)
Total Entries: 169
Total Prize Pool: $160,640
October 17 – October 18, 2010

Final Results:

Finish	Last Name	First Name	City	State	PRIZE
1	Nguyen	John	Fairview Heights	IL	$43,372
2	Ziegelbauer	Steven	Sheboygan	WI	$19,294
3	Carlson	Michael	Plymouth	IN	$14,141
4	Valiente	Anthony	Hialeah	FL	$10,548
5	Chlopek	Matthew	Schaumburg	IL	$8,005
6	Hulme	Michael	Chickasha	OK	$6,178
7	Leecy	Matthew	Ottawa	KS	$4,847
8	Crowder	Keith	Elkins Park	PA	$3,865
9	Freeman	Joseph	Bartlett	IL	$3,131
10	Russo	John	Lake in the Hills	IL	$3,131
11	Carter	Michael	Matttoon	IL	$3,131
12	Graham	William	Long Grove	IL	$2,577
13	Jivkov	Nick	River Grove	IL	$2,577
14	Smith	Mark	Georgetown	KY	$2,577
15	Adams	Justin	Chicago	IL	$2,154
16	Rusch	Shawn	Milwaukee	WI	$2,154
17	Ochana	Edward	Elgin	IL	$2,154

John Nguyen Strikes Gold at WSOP Circuit in Chicago

Young Poker Pro Spikes Miracle Card on Exciting Final Hand

Hammond, IN – Almost everyone understands that poker is a game of skill. But luck also plays a big role, especially in the short run. On any poker hand, just about anything is possible.

The old saying about it being better to be “lucky” than “good” was never more true than in the latest World Series of Poker Circuit tournament, which was recently completed at the Horseshoe Casino near Chicago.

Consider the final thrilling hand. Down to the last two players, the chip stacks were very close to even. John Nguyen, a 26-year-old poker pro from Fairview Heights, IL was dealt 5d 4c. His opponent Benn Koepfler was dealt 8s 6s. Normally, those two weak hands are not what one would expect to ignite a monstrous clash on what turned out to be the final hand of the tournament. But that’s precisely what happened.

Nguyen made a small pre-flop raise hoping to steal a round of blinds and antes (8,000-16,000). But Koepfler called. The flop came Tc 8h 3s. Nguyen (holding nothing) bet out 60,000, which he later described as a “feeler bet.” Koepfler called instantly with middle pair. The turn was the 6h. Nguyen picked up an outside straight draw. Trouble was, Koepfler made two pair. This time, Nguyen checked. Koepfler made a large bet, which was nearly twice the size of the pot. Nguyen thought about his decision carefully and decided to move all-on what amounted to nothing but a semi-bluff. He still had eight outs to win if he was called, but Nguyen was certainly hoping that his rival would fold.

That didn’t happen.

Koepfler called instantly and tabled his two pair. Nguyen was in big trouble.

“I had five-high (when all the money went in),” Nguyen said later, still not quite believing what had happened. “

Incredibly, the 2d fell on the river which gave Nguyen his straight. Koepfler was furious and let his feelings be known with a colorful expletive. Meanwhile, all Nugyen could do was shake his head and rake in the biggest pot of the tournament.

“He definitely outplayed me on the final hand,” Nguyen admitted afterward. “Somehow, I hit the miracle deuce for the straight. That was all luck and no skill.”