



**2011-2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Eight
IP Biloxi Casino Resort and Spa
Event #2 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry
Final Report
Buy-In: \$345
Total Entries: 477
Total Prize Pool: \$138,807
October 28-31, 2011**

THE STARS ALIGNED

Pharmacy Student Beats 477 Entrants, Gets First Ring in Second WSOPC Event Ever.

Biloxi, MS (October 31, 2011) — Before the early morning hours of October 31, Thomas Wilkie's largest poker score stood at about \$2,500. That all changed when he beat 477 players in the \$345 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry Ring Event to take home the lion's share of the \$138,807 prize pool — \$29,552.

"When the tournament started I was hoping to do slightly better than a min cash," Wilkie said. "A min cash is about the best I've done in a big event like this, so \$29,000 is just insane. I'm still in shock."

Wilkie is a 23-year-old student from Batesville, Mississippi. He studies pharmaceuticals at Ole Miss and is expected to graduate in the spring of 2012. Regardless of his success on the felt, poker will continue to only be a hobby of his.

Event #2 at the IP Casino Resort and Spa was only the third tournament Wilkie played in with over a \$200 buy-in and only the second Circuit event he had ever entered. He says the prize money isn't life changing, but it will give him the freedom to play more, and play a bit higher.

The re-entry event featured two starting days and they combined on Day 2 with 55 players remaining and 54 spots getting paid. With 35 players left, Wilkie was all-in and at risk with pocket Queens versus the pocket Aces of his opponent. The deck hit Wilkie, giving him a full house on the flop and the pot awarded him about 20 percent of the total chips in play.

"Anything less than a win at that point was not acceptable," Wilkie said.

Propelled by his great play and fortunate spots, Wilkie came to the final table as the chip leader. The rest of the table stacked up as follows.

Final Table:

Seat 1	David Sidler	Atlanta, GA	228,000
Seat 2	Ken Pikop	Ocean Springs, MS	323,000
Seat 3	Robert Harwell	Pass Christian, MS	946,000
Seat 4	Drew Fanning	Madison, WI	700,000
Seat 5	Tony Thrash	Sharpsburg, GA	211,000
Seat 6	Thomas Wilkie	Batesville, MS	1,015,000

