



**2011-2012 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Eight  
IP Casino Resort and Spa Biloxi  
Ring Event #5 No-Limit Hold'em  
Final Report  
Buy-In: \$345  
Total Entries: 160  
Total Prize Pool: \$46,560  
October 30-31, 2011**

## EVENT 5 IN THE BOOKS AT IP BILOXI

### Ricky Romero Overcomes Past Injuries and is Crowned Champion.

Biloxi, MS (October 31, 2011) — Ricky Romero worked in a salt mine for 28 years before his life was forever changed. While on the job, a truck ran a stop sign and hit Romero's car, crushing his pelvis. Doctors said there was a chance he would never walk again.

That was seven years ago.

Romero battled through his injury and can now stand on his own two feet to tell the story. He is unable to spend extended periods of time on his legs, and the damage to his body forced him to retire early, but poker has provided an escape from what has become his reality.

The battle Romero faced on the poker table last night paled in comparison to the battle with his injuries, but just as he did with rehab, Romero prevailed. He beat 160 entrants in the \$345 No-Limit Hold'em Ring Event #5 at IP Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi to win his first Circuit ring. He received \$12,208 of the \$46,560 prize pool and 50 points toward the Casino Championship for his win.

With the victory, Romero has moved up the WSOP Circuit Leaderboard at the IP and is in the midst of a five-way tie at the top. So far, nobody has recorded multiple cashes to separate themselves from the field, but with seven events left, anything can happen.

The bubble boy in Event 5 at IP was David Nicholson. Nicholson is a 26-year-old poker pro and hometown hero from the Mississippi coast. He has had an amazing run on the 2011-2012 WSOP Circuit, recording a win in the Bossier City Main Event, and another in Hammond. His 19<sup>th</sup> place finish at the IP saw him head to the exit with empty pockets.

Romero had his work cut out for him at the final table. Kenny Milam (eight Circuit cashes, three final tables) and Frank Alpandinar (two Circuit cashes, two final tables) both stood in his way. Starting as one of the shorter stacks, Romero grinded his way to the win. At the start of the final table players stacked up like this:

#### Final Table:

Seat 1	Will Gould	Houston, TX	46,500
Seat 2	Farris Atta	Atlanta, GA	107,500
Seat 3	Jeter Brock	Birmingham, AL	172,500
Seat 4	Stanley Seelig	New Orleans, LA	476,000
Seat 5	Frank Alpandinar	Baton Rouge, LA	176,500
Seat 6	Ricky Romero	New Iberin, LA	86,000

