



**2010-2011 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Seven  
Horseshoe Hammond  
Event #3 No-Limit Hold'em  
End of Day Two  
Buy-In: \$1,100  
Total Entries: 202  
Total Prize Pool: \$195,940  
October 17, 2011**

## **THE ART OF WINNING**

Math Tutor from Romania Gives a Lesson to Final Table and Scores First Ring.

Hammond, IN (October 18, 2011)—Staying true to the standard set by Horseshoe Hammond, attendance was up roughly 20 percent in this year's opening \$1,100 buy-in tournament. 202 players made their way into The Venue located on the second floor of the riverboat casino for a chance at the \$51,000 first prize.

The tournament attracted some of the Circuit's top brass, including Horseshoe Southern Indiana Main Event champion, Robert Castoire, 19-time WSOP casher, Josh Brikis and 2011 WSOPC ring winner, Benjamin Kramer. In all, the prizepool eclipsed \$195,000 and 21 spots were paid.

When the last card was dealt, 28-year-old Valentin Vornicu was the only player that remained. Vornicu beat the star-studded field to score his first WSOPC gold ring and largest in-the-money finish to date.

Vornicu was born in Romania and received his Masters degree in mathematics. As a child, he competed in math competitions and learned to use logic and deduction to work his way through problems. He says those same skills help him at the poker table.

Four years ago he moved to the States and now resides in San Diego, California where he works as a math tutor on a forum site, the Art of Problem Solving.

Vornicu teaches gifted children, children he calls the best of the best, online in the United States and he has hopes of starting a math summer camp. He took the week off from teaching to play in the Circuit. Somehow, I think his children will forgive him.

Like Vornicu's students, the final table assembled in Event 3 was truly the best of the best. Collectively, the players had seven Circuit rings, 16 final tables and almost 50 cashes.

"It was to be expected," Vortunicu said about the resume of the final table. "It's the \$1,100 event. You expect a lot of the field to be really good players."

### **Final Table:**

Seat 1	Michael Souza	487,000
Seat 2	Chad Hahn	64,000
Seat 3	Mark Kroon	340,000
Seat 4	Kyle Cartwright	310,000
Seat 5	Pradeep Buddharaju	90,000



