



**2011/2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
Harrah's Atlantic City
Event #7
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$500 (+55)
Total Entries: 292
Total Prize Pool: \$124,548
December 8-9, 2011**

Official Final Results:

Deck the Hall

Ryan Hall Wins First Gold Ring – Collects \$33,989 after Marathon Heads-Up Battle

Microsoft Engineer Jay Nair Finishes as Runner Up

Jeffrey Gurkinkel Holds Slim Points Lead – as Tournament Series Heads into Final Weekend

WSOP Circuit at Harrah's Atlantic City Main Event Championship on Deck – Dec. 10-12

Atlantic City, NJ (December 9, 2011) – The World Series of Poker Circuit continued tonight at the JcttcjØu"Resort in Atlantic City, which has now crossed the midway point. The seventh event of 12 scheduled gold ring tournaments ended with another first-time winner and an exciting finish.

The latest tournament champion is Ryan Hall. The full-time professional poker player from Newark, DE, collected \$33,989 in prize money ó his highest major tournament finish ever. He was also presented with his first WSOP Circuit gold ring, given out by John Arthur ó Poker Director for JcttcjØu"Cvncpvkc City.

Hall earned this victory, for sure. He was not only tested numerous times during an eight-hour final table, he had to overcome a tenacious heads-up opponent named Jay Nair, from Redmond, WA. Hall enjoyed the chip advantage during the entire three-hour heads-up duel. But Nair proved to be stubbornly difficult to eliminate, putting Hall to a test of both skill and patience.

The final hand was a fiwkp i"gzenc o cvkqp"rqkpv"hqt" JcnnØu"hktuv"xkevqt{0"" J g"urkmgf" c"uvtck i j v"qp"vj g"hkpcn" card, ending a test of mental willpower between two very tough poker players.

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The 292-player field represented another large turnout on the Jersey Shore. Events are averaging about 450 players each, with a big weekend coming up. The Main Event Championship will be played Saturday through Monday (Dec. 10-12).

JcttcjØu"Cvlantic City has a rich history hosting WSOP Circuit events. In fact, it was the very first casino ever to host such a tournament, which occurred back in January 2005, during the EktewkvØu inaugural ugcuqp""Ukpeg"vj gp." JcttcjØu"Cvncpvke"Ekv{"j cu"dggp" c"uvc rng"qp"vj g"pcvkqpcn"vqwt." jcxkpi"j quvgf" c" tournament series during each and every season. Fwtkpi" o quv{"gctu." JcttcjØu"j cu"dggp"vj g"hkpcn"gxgpn"qh" the year, with its events usually taking place in December. KvØu"qpg"qh"qpn{"hqw"Ecguctu"rtqrgtvkgu"vq"j quv" a WSOP Circuit stop during all eight seasons ó the other casinos dgkpi" JcttcjØu"Tkpeqp"*Ucn Diego), JcttcjØu"Pg y"Qtngcpu."cpf" Jctxg{Øu"Ncmg"Vcjqg0 kpfggf." JcttcjØu"Cvncpvke"Ekv{"j cu"guvcdnku j g f"kvugh"cu" a flagship stop on the national tour, and this year appears to be no exception based on the early turnout.

Final table action was streamed on WSOP.com. As is the case with all gold ring event final tables, there is a five-minute delay. Poker fans may tune in and watch the action daily, which normally begins late in the afternoon and runs most of the evening.

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Event #7 was a two-day \$500 (+55) No-Nk o kv" J qnfØg o "vqwtpc o gpv0""Rnc{ began on Thursday at noon and ended late on Friday night. The total prize pool came to \$124,548. The top 30 players were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points.

A full list of all players who cashed in Event #7 can be seen at WSOP.COM

During the first playing session, more than ninety percent of players were eliminated. There were only 22 survivors who resumed action on the final day and played down to the final table. After another two hours of play, the ten finalists were determined as follows:

- SEAT 1: Lou Ann Merwick (Lincoln, NE) – 130,000 in chips**
- SEAT 2: Dave Curre (Rochester, NY) – 131,000 in chips**
- SEAT 3: Charles Clark (Webster, NY) -- 428,000 in chips**

SEAT 4: Hank White (Bronx, NY) – 472,000 in chips
SEAT 5: Ryan Hall (Newark, DE) – 432,000 in chips
SEAT 6: Dylan Drazen (Astoria, NY) – 300,000 in chips
SEAT 7: Jay Nair (Redmond, WA) – 745,000 in chips
SEAT 8: Ara Melikian (New York, NY) – 130,000 in chips
SEAT 9: Charles Furey (Bridgewater, NJ) – 486,000 in chips
SEAT 10: Mike Sixa (New Brunswick, NJ) – 250,000 in chips

Jay Nair distanced himself from the rest of the field as the decisive chip leader when cards flew in the air for the finale. Play began at 5:30 pm local time. Play finished at 1:30 am, making the total duration about eight hours.

10th Place – Lou Ann Merwick experienced her fourth WSOP Circuit final table appearance with her impressive showing in this tournament. Unfortunately, she did not last long and went out about ten hands into play. Merwick, a sales professional from Lincoln, NE collected a commission worth \$2,884 in prize money. This was her seventh time to cash on the WSOP Circuit.

9th Place – Hank White, from Bronx, NY endured a wild roller coaster ride during his hour-long stay. He zigged and zagged between being the low stack and being close to second in chips at one point, but ultimately took a few tough beats and went out in ninth place. White received a payout totaling \$3,118.

8th Place – Ara Melitian, a real estate tycoon from New York City, cashed for the first time ever in a WSOP Circuit event and collected \$3,908. Melitian has previously cashed twice in the WSOP Main Event Championship in 2006 and 2011. In fact, he finished 102nd in 2006 and 2011.

7th Place – Mike Sixa, a jewelry collector from Northern New Jersey, cashed for the first time ever in a WSOP Circuit event and collected \$4,974. Sixa, winner of a WSOP gold bracelet back in 2004, went out when he lost on a tough beat holding pocket kings, which was topped by A-Q (an ace flopped). Sixa now has more than 100 major tournament cashes and 20 final table appearances. He has accumulated more than \$1.2 million in career tournament earnings. Seventh place paid \$4,974.

6th Place – Dylan Drazen, from Astoria, NY finished in sixth place. He collected \$6,427 in prize money. Drazen, a software developer from Bridgewater, NJ was disconnected from the final table during the fifth hour of play. He now has multiple cashes at both the WSOP and on the WSOP Circuit. He made it to a WSOP final table in 2009, finishing fifth. Furey added \$11,245 to his poker bankroll and now has nearly \$250,000 in career live tournament winnings.

5th Place – Dave Curre took a horrible beat on what turned out to be his final hand of the tournament. He was dealt A-5 and was all-in against A-3. Curre flopped a five, which gave him a decisive lead on the hand. But runner-runner low cards gave his opponent a straight, which led Curre to the rail in fifth place. Curre collected \$8,433 in prize money.

4th Place – Charles Clark, a sales representative from Webster, NY ended up as the third-place finisher. The Hawaiian-born part-time poker player cashed for the first time in a WSOP Circuit event. He collected \$15,241 in prize money.

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2nd Place – Jay Nair, a software professional from Microsoft, cashed for the first time ever in a WSOP Circuit event and collected \$15,241 in prize money. Nair, a software professional from Microsoft, cashed for the first time ever in a WSOP Circuit event. He has spent the last seven years working as a software professional for Microsoft. Prior

to that, Nair completed two Masters Degrees. Nair has even published math papers with John Nash (of *ÖC"Dgcwvkhwn"Okpfö"hc o g+0"V jg"Kp fkc*-born academic and part-time poker player now lives in Redmond, WA. He collected \$21,005 as his consolation prize.

When heads-up play began, Hall enjoyed slightly better than a 2 to 1 chip advantage over Nair. The duel lasted more than three hours. Nair proved to be a bitterly tough foe, constantly shifting gears and making Hall work for every chip. In fact, Nair had a shot to take the chip lead on what was the final hand of the tournament. Had he won the last confrontation, the final outcome might have swung in his favor.

The last hand was dealt as follows:

Hall: Ad 4d
Nair: Ac Th
Flop: 8c 6c 5d
Turn: 5h
River: 7c

Nair shoved pre-flop and Hall called. Hall found himself in the rare spot of being behind at that point. The flop gave Hall some extra outs with an inside straight draw. The turn did not help. But the river was the perfect card for Hall, who scooped the last pot with a straight.

1st Place – Ryan Hall won his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring. He collected \$33,989 in prize money.

J cnnøu win was a decisive victory. He was never in serious danger of elimination. During the eight-hour final table, he was near the chip lead or held the top spot much of the way.

With his victory, Hall jumped into the race as a serious contender in this WSOP Circuitøu ðDguv"Cnn-Ctqwpf"Rnc{gtö standings. At present, Jeffrey Gurfinkel appears to be the player to beat, with two deep runs including a victory. But the race is still wide open.

The player who accumulates the mosv"qxgtcnn"rqkpvu"kp"Cvncpvke"Ekv{øu twelve combined gold ring tournaments receives a pre-paid entry into the \$1 million 2011-2012 WSOP Circuit National Championship, to be held in Las Vegas, next May. At least two players from this tournament series will qualify for the WSOP Circuit National Championship, which is classified as a WSOP gold bracelet event. The other automatic qualifier yknn"dg"vjg"ykppgt"qh"Jcttcjøu"Cvncpvke"Ekv{øu"Main Event championship. The Main Event runs Dec. 10-12.

With the seventh tournament wrapped up, there are still four more gold ring events remaining in what is being billed as a ö34"tkpiu"kp"34"fc{uö"rqmgt"ugtkgu. The WSOP Ektewkv"cv"Jcttcjøu"Cvncpvke"Ekv{ continues through December 12th. This {gctøu"uejgfwng"kpenwfgu"pqv"qpn{"all the gold ring events, but multiple second-chance tournaments (at 5 pm and 7 pm most days), single table and mega satellites, plus cash games going arounf"vjg"enqem"kpukfg"vjg"Jcttcjøu Poker Room.

WSOP Circuit Gold Ring Winners at Harrah's Atlantic City:

- Event 1: Richard Smith (Warrenton, VA) defeated 704 players and won \$41,995**
- Event 2: Jeffrey Gurfinkel (Brooklyn, NY) defeated 888 players and won \$50,446**
- Event 3: Michael Linster (Levittown, NY) defeated 288 players and won \$35,529**
- Event 4: Jeffrey Manns (Philadelphia, PA) defeated 555 players and won \$33,926**
- Event 5: Peter Ippolito (East Meadow, NY) defeated 370 players and won \$37,926**
- Event 6: Jeremy Burleson (Charlotte, NC) defeated 428 players and won \$28,646**
- Event 7: Ryan Hall (Newark, DE) defeated 292 players and won \$33,989**

For further information, please visit WSOP.COM.

For more information about the Atlantic City poker scene, please visit:

www.facebook.com/TotalACPoker

Note: Be sure and follow all WSOP news and updates on Twitter @wsop

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