



**2011-2012 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Eight  
Choctaw Casino Resort  
Durant, Oklahoma  
Final Report  
Ring Event #8  
No-Limit Hold'em Heads Up  
Buy-In: \$555  
Entries: 173  
Prize Pool: \$83,905  
January 20-21, 2012**

## ALL RAJA, ALL THE TIME

Raja Kattamuri Gets Second Ring at Choctaw. Wins First-Ever WSOP Circuit Heads Up Tournament.

**Durant, OK (January 20, 2012)** — Raja Kattamuri won the first-ever Heads-Up No-Limit Hold'em WSOP Circuit event at Choctaw Casino Resort on Friday night. He has now recorded two gold ring victories and a runner-up finish in the last week.

Heads-up events have been a staple at the World Series of Poker for some time now, but the format had never made an appearance on the Circuit tour. The addition of Event #8, \$555 No-Limit Hold'em Heads Up, was a first, and it went off without a hitch.

In all, 173 players registered, creating a prizepool of \$83,905. Kattamuri was awarded \$23,475 for his victory, which marks his second at Choctaw this year. His first came earlier this week in Event #3 when he beat WSOP bracelet winner, Tex Barch, heads up for \$37,293. Kattamuri also recorded a runner-up finish in Event #6, a disappointment considering it started out looking as if he was going to run over the final table. His opponent overcame a more than 2-to-1 heads-up chip disadvantage and denied Kattamuri ring number two.

It didn't take him long to get back on his feet.

In order to call himself champion, Kattamuri had to win eight heads-up matches -- four on Day 1 and four on Day 2. The chip stacks increased with each match, as did the starting blinds. The conclusion of Day 1 marked the bursting of the money bubble and all 16 remaining players were paid prize money.

With eight players remaining, Kattamuri was splitting his time between Event #8 and Event #9, \$345 Pot-Limit Omaha. As he stared down his Event #8 opponent, the tournament director announced all remaining players in Event #9 had made the money — You know you're running good when you're abandoned stack is finishing better than 90 percent of the field.

After two more heads-up victories, Kattamuri's final match was scheduled to take place at 9 p.m. local time. Both Kattamuri and his opponent, Dustin Schoonover, agreed to move the match up to 8:15 to accommodate Event #9's dinner break.

The final match saw a roller coaster of chip stacks. Kattamuri struck first, winning a couple medium-sized pots with ace queen and pocket jacks, but Schoonover came back with an upper cut and won a monster flip holding [As][Qd] versus Kattamuri's [Js][Jc]. The players got all their chips in on that hand, and it knocked Kattamuri down to about 600,000 and he was then a 3-to-1 chip underdog.



