



**2011/2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
Harrah's St. Louis
Event #3
Pot-Limit Omaha
Buy-In: \$300 (+55)
Total Entries: 150
Total Prize Pool: \$43,650
April 13-14, 2012**

Official Final Results:

1	Kevin Balsman	ST. LOUIS, MO, US	\$11,844
2	Cory Sargent	TERRE HAUTE, IN, US	\$7,320
3	Gordon Brown	Westfield, MO, US	\$5,284
4	Robert Quick	Belton, MO, US	\$3,883
5	William Matula	BALLWIN, MO, US	\$2,903
6	Joseph Hebda	SAINT JOHN, IN, US	\$2,207
7	Nicholas Alumbaugh	INDIANAPOLIS, IN, US	\$1,706
8	Ryan Gentry	LA JOLLA, CA, US	\$1,340
9	Gary Menard	WELLSVILLE, MO, US	\$1,070
10	Geoffrey Dobran	Saint Louis, MO, US	\$867
11	Christopher Krieder	BENLD, IL, US	\$867
12	Leo Whitt	LOUISVILLE, KY, US	\$867
13	Robert Hooton	Columbia, MO, US	\$714
14	Thomas Manning	Waco, TX, US	\$714
15	Christopher Dickey	St. Louis, MO, US	\$714

Tournament Report:

Kevin Balsman Wins Pot-Limit Omaha Championship at Harrah's St. Louis

Final Midwest WSOP Circuit Continues through April 23rd

St. Louis, MO (March 14, 2012) – Kevin Balsman became the newest member of the gold ring club by winning the Pot-Limit Omaha championship, at Harrah's St. Louis.

The local part-time poker player and professional driver achieved every poker player's dream by winning the very first World Series of Poker event he entered. Balsman overcame 149 fellow players and ultimately walked away with \$11,844 in prize money.

Balsman's victory came on a record-setting Saturday inside the Harrah's St. Louis Casino. Not only was another tournament final table played at the same time, the largest poker tournament in Missouri history began with more than 1,000 entrants in Event #4.

Balsman wasn't at all distracted by the zoo inside the poker tournament area. He calmly collected his money and lit a well-deserved cigar as he exited the arena.

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The third of a dozen gold ring tournaments began on Friday with Event #3 – a \$355 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha competition. The tournament attracted 150 entries. The total prize pool came to \$43,650. The top 15 finishers were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points.

A full list of all players who cashed in Event #3 can be seen at WSOP.COM

The tournament was played over two consecutive days. Only ten percent of the starting field -- 14 survivors -- took seats on the second day of action, played on Saturday.

Following two hours of play on Day Two, the final table was set. Gordon Brown arrived as chip leader. He would end up finishing in third place.

The final table featured just one former WSOP Circuit gold ring winner – Ryan Gentry.

The final playing session began at 4 pm local time. Play finished at 9 pm making the total duration about five hours. The official order of finish was as follows:

10th Place – Geoff Dobran was the first player to exit, going out in tenth place. He is a 35-year-old liability claims professional from St. Louis, MO.

9th Place – Gary Menard exited in ninth place. He is a 45-year-old contractor from Wellsville, MO. This marked his third time to cash on the WSOP Circuit.

8th Place – Ryan Gentry was the eighth-place finisher. He is a 34-year-old poker pro from San Diego, CA. Gentry won a gold ring during the first season of the WSOP Circuit (Paris/Bally's Las Vegas). He now has nine WSOP Circuit cashes, plus five in-the-money finishes at the WSOP in Las Vegas.

7th Place – Nicholas Alumbaugh went out in seventh place. He is a 32-year-old Rolls-Royce dealer from Indianapolis, IN. Alumbaugh has several previous high finishes, including a win at the Hollywood Casino (Indiana). This marked his first time to cash in a WSOP-related tournament.

6th Place – Joseph Hebda was the sixth-place finisher. He is a 26-year-old former dog catcher from Bloomington, IN. Hebda has posted three strong showings on this year's WSOP Circuit, which now includes two sixth-places finishes as well as a third-place run. With this performance, he is now in serious contention for one of the at-large bids in the National Championship tournament, coming in July.

5th Place – William Matula ended up as the fifth-place finisher. He is a real estate professional from St. Louis. This marked his third time to cash on the WSOP Circuit and was his highest finish.

4th Place – Bob Quick took fourth place. He is a 55-year-old engineer from Raytown, MO. This was his first-ever WSOP Circuit event, and thus his first time to cash.

3rd Place – Gordon Brown finished in third place. He is a 33-year-old landscaper from Westfield, MO.

2nd Place – Cory Sargent was the runner up. He is a 24-year-old active duty military, serving proudly in the U.S. Air Force. Sargent earned a nice payout totaling \$7,320 while on leave.

1st Place – Kevin Balsman became the third WSOP Circuit champion crowned this year at Harrah's St. Louis. He collected \$11,844 for the victory. He was also presented with his first gold ring.

With his victory, Balsman moves into the top spot alongside the winners of Events #1 and #2 as the early leaders in this WSOP Circuit's "Best All-Around Player" standings. The player who accumulates the most overall points in Harrah's St. Louis' twelve combined gold ring tournaments receives a pre-paid entry into the \$1 million 2011-2012 WSOP Circuit National Championship. 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 will be the winner of Main Event championship (to be held April 21-23).

Here is the list of gold ring winners at Harrah's St. Louis, so far:

Event #1 – Shain Matthews (Marysville, CA) won \$29,306 in \$355 NLHE

Event #2 – Jerry Ard (Monticello, MS) won \$32,147 in \$565 NLHE

Event #3 – Kevin Balsman (St. Louis, MO) won \$11,844 in \$355 PLO

With the third tournament wrapped up, there are still nine more gold ring events remaining in what is being billed as a "12 rings in 12 days" poker series. The WSOP Circuit at Harrah's St. Louis continues through April 23rd. This year's schedule includes not only all the gold ring events, but multiple second-chance tournaments, single table and mega satellites, plus cash games going around the clock inside the action-packed poker room

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MORE ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT AT HARRAH'S ST. LOUIS

Harrah's St. Louis is a casino-resort located in Maryland Heights, MO -- about a 35-minute drive from Downtown St. Louis. The international airport is even closer, just 15-minutes by car or shuttle. In fact, the shuttle bus is free for hotel guests. For poker players residing throughout the Midwest, the casino can be reached easily, which is located right off Interstate-70.

Harrah's St. Louis is the 15th (of 17) WSOP Circuit host properties. The 2011-2012 season is rapidly winding down, with only three more stops remaining on the schedule. Harrah's St. Louis is the Midwest's final destination this season. The other two remaining WSOP Circuit stops are at Harrah's Chester (Philadelphia) – April 26 to May 7 and Harrah's New Orleans – May 10 to May 21.

This marks the third straight season that the WSOP Circuit has visited Harrah's St. Louis. Previous tournaments played here drew large turnouts and generated big prize pools. This year's series appears to be no different based on heavy registration for the first few events.

Harrah's St. Louis first opened in 1997 and has been one of gaming's flagship properties in the Midwest ever since. The hotel offers 455 deluxe rooms and 47 luxury suites. Special hotel rates for players are available. The property also has several fine restaurants at all price levels. See WSOP.com for more information.

Harrah's St. Louis' "12 Rings in 12 Days" series is taking place April 12-23. All the poker action takes place right on the main casino floor. The final table is stationed right in the center of the floor, a highly-anticipated destination for every poker player.

There's a lot at stake for poker players who will make their way to Harrah's St. Louis over the next two weeks. Not only are a dozen gold rings up for grabs, lots of prize money will also be awarded to those who cash. All players who finish in the money will also earn ranking points, which are used to determine finalists for the season-ending WSOP Circuit National Championship.

Since the season began in September, all tournament players have been in the running for 100 guaranteed pre-paid seats in the \$1 million WSOP Circuit National Championship finale – which will be a WSOP gold bracelet event to be played in Las Vegas, around the time of the World Series of Poker Main Event.

To see the complete Harrah's St. Louis tournament schedule, please visit WSOP.com.

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

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