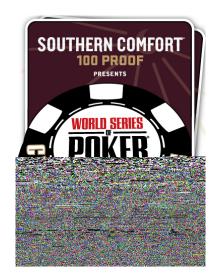
2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit Season Nine IP Casino Resort and Spa Biloxi, Mississippi Event #1 No-Limit Hold'em Buy-In \$300 (+\$65) Total Entries: 202 Prize Pool: \$60,600 August 9-10, 2012



## **BLAKE BAROUSSE DRAWS FIRST BLOOD**

Season-Opening Event Wraps at IP Biloxi. 239 New Champions Remain to be Crowned in the 2012-13 WSOP Circuit.

**Biloxi, MS (August 10, 2012)** — The first of 240 new champions to be crowned during the 2012-13 WSOP Circuit season presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof took his throne Friday night in Biloxi, MS.

The first of his kind, Blake Barousse, bested the rest in Event #1 at IP Resort Casino and Spa and took home \$15,757 for his efforts.

"It's good to get it at the beginning of the Circuit for the (WSOP National Championship) points," Barousse said of his breakthrough victory. "That's what I was trying to do last year even though I didn't pursue it much. Now that I'm starting off with 50 points I will definitely grind more."

The newest WSOP Circuit season began Thursday on Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Between now and August 20th, 12 champions will be crowned and two tickets will be punched to the WSOP National Championship.

The most recent WSOP Circuit season is bigger and better than ever, boasting more prize money, and more stops as well as the first-ever WSOP Circuit event on foreign soil when River Rock Casino in Vancouver, British Columbia hosts a stop toward the end of October.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit tour features 20, 12-day stops throughout the United States and in Canada. Each stop will crown 12 new champions and award two pre-paid seats to the season-ending WSOP Circuit National Championship to take place in New Orleans May 21-23, 2013.

This was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at IP Biloxi. Officially listed as Event #1, the \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 202 entries. The total prize pool came to \$60,600. The top 21 players were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points.

With the win, Barousse is on top of the Casino Champion leaderboard at IP Biloxi.