

2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
IP Casino Resort and Spa
Biloxi, Mississippi
Event #9
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$1,000 (+\$125)
Total Entries: 100
Prize Pool: \$100,000
August 16-17, 2012



BEN MINTZ WINS SEASON'S FIRST \$1,125 BUY-IN EVENT

Dwyte Pilgrim and Aaron Massey fall short of gold.

Biloxi, MS (August 17, 2012) — The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit season's first \$1,125 buy-in tournament concluded Friday in Biloxi, MS. As expected, the event attracted some of the best and brightest the poker world has to offer.

Former November Niner John Dolan, four-time WSOP Circuit champion Kurt Jewell, three-time champions Dwyte Pilgrim and Tim Burt as well as Allen Kessler decorated the field.

Nine of the 100 starting players returned Friday for the second and final day of play. Aaron Massey's commanding chip lead and Pilgrim's shot at WSOP Circuit victory number four were among the most prominent headlines. Barely two hours into the final table, though, it became clear everyone would take a back seat to 29-year-old Ben Mintz.

Pilgrim began the table short stacked and Massey left the tournament in fifth place after holding pocket kings against the eventual runner-up finisher Bruce Schlichting's aces. Before you knew it, it was Mintz's tournament to lose, and he did not disappoint.

"It feels really good to get closure and win one," Mintz said after the victory. "With the World Series of Poker just ending I feel like this is the beginning of the new poker year. I hope to build on this win and I feel like this is one where the momentum train can get rolling."

Mintz is an accomplished high stakes pro and made a deep run in 2011's WSOP Main Event, finishing 75th. In recent years he has made it a point to live healthier and is even in the process of training to run a marathon. Mintz is reaping the rewards of his lifestyle change both physically and financially.

"I'm really blessed," Mintz explained. "I have a great set of poker friends around the country. I've always been well liked, but people see me changing my ways and it's a positive influence on them. If I ever get big in poker I feel like I'll point to my (lifestyle change) as the reason."

This was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at IP Biloxi. Officially listed as Event #9, the \$1,125 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 100 entrants. The

