



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Horseshoe Hammond (Chicago)
Hammond, IN
Event #5
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 720
Prize Pool: \$219,000
October 15-16, 2012**

Where I'm Going?

Blake Barousse Wins Second Gold Ring this Season

Two Months After First Victory at Biloxi – Louisiana Poker Pro Travels North and Wins Another

Hammond, IN (October 16, 2012) – This is turning out to be a banner year for Blake Barousse. The 24-year-old poker pro from Lafayette, Louisiana just won his second WSOP Circuit title of the young season.

Barousse won Event 5, which was a \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament, played at Horseshoe Hammond, near Chicago. Barousse's previous win took place in August, as the season opener, held at IP Biloxi (Mississippi).

The latest champion overcame a huge field of 720 players who entered the two-day competition. After most of the field was eliminated during Day One, only 34 players survived – Barousse among the leaders.

The final hand was dealt out precisely at midnight when the last of the would-be Cinderellas turned into pumpkins, leaving Barousse – not with a glass slipper – but a gold ring. Barousse won the final hand of the tournament, turning a straight which won him the tournament. First place paid \$43,805.

Barousse attended college before turning to poker to make a living. He attended a small school in Louisiana where he majored in general studies. But he seems to have earned a Masters Degree in poker, with this impressive victory.

After his victory, Barousse was asked if he wanted to mention anything in the official report. He said, "Yeah, can I pick the headline?"

"Title it -- 'Where I'm Going?' Be sure and add a question mark."

When asked to explain further, Barousse stated that "Where I'm going?" has become is life's philosophy. If he takes a bad beat, he just shrugs it off and says, "Where I'm going." Indeed, Barousse never wants to lose sight of the goal, which is to getter better and win.

Where's he going?

Places. Maybe big places, if he keeps this up.

The top-ten finishers were as follows:

1	Blake Barousse	LAFAYETTE	LA	US	\$43,805.00
2	Kenneth Felten	ISLAND LAKE	IL	US	\$27,003.00
3	John Holley	DESTIN	FL	US	\$19,907.00
4	Mike Leah	LAS VEGAS	NV	US	\$14,837.00
5	Carter Myers	BRECKENRIDGE	MI	US	\$11,206.00
6	Imran Sajwani	CHICAGO	IL	US	\$8,574.00
7	William Luciano	LOMBARD	IL	US	\$6,642.00
8	Pavlin Karakikov	HARWOOD HEIGHTS	IL	US	\$5,210.00
9	William Robbins	PLAINWELL	MI	US	\$4,137.00
10	Nick Vavalle	BLOOMINGDALE	IL	US	\$3,324.00

Tournament Notes

- Day One began with 720 starters. By the end of 14 hours of play, only 34 remained. The 34 survivors returned for Day Two and played another four hours before the final table began.
- When the final table began, Mike Leah enjoyed a slight chip lead. He ended up finishing in fourth place. With this finish, combined with a third-place finish previously here at Hammond, he is now the leader in the Casino Champions points race.
- Blake Barousse arrived at the final table ranked in third-place. But the top three players were separated by a small chip margin.
- Barousse won the tournament when he held 6-5. The flop came K-7-4. The turn was a 3, giving Barousse a straight and the best hand.

- Nick Jivkov, originally from Bulgaria and now living in Chicago, finished in 24th place. He won a gold bracelet at this year's WSOP (\$1,500 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha).
- Kurt Jewell, from Frankfort, KY cashed (80th place). He owns four WSOP Circuit gold bracelets.
- The final table went about six hours, which is about the average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events.

Through the conclusion of Event 5, Mike Leah (Toronto, Ontario – Canada) is the leader in the Casino Champions race.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Horseshoe Hammond's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title "Casino Champion" and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP Circuit National Championship. The qualifier will join the winner of the Horseshoe Hammond Main Event, who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for Horseshoe Hammond only) and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids to be awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at Horseshoe Hammond in Hammond, IN runs through October 22, 2012.

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