

**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
Harrah's Resort Atlantic City  
Atlantic City, NJ  
Event #1  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$320 (+\$45)  
Total Entries: 536  
Prize Pool: \$162,944  
November 29-30, 2012**



## **Jacob Coker Wins Atlantic City's Opening Event**

**Newly turned professional scores \$35,000 and a Circuit gold ring.**

**Atlantic City, NJ (December 1, 2012)** — Jacob Coker outlasted a starting field of more than 530 in the opening \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City. The event marked the first of 12 gold ring events scheduled to take place at Harrah's Resort between now and December 10.

Coker was awarded better than \$35,000, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Champion's race for his breakthrough victory.

The win marked the first of Coker's young career as a professional poker player. He began playing poker recreationally in 2007 and continued to play in his free time away from work. That is, until he was let go from his job in June of 2010.

"I started playing poker and very quickly I realized the potential of how much money you could make," Coker said of life after his job. "I played and played and read books so I could win money and make it a career. Eventually that's what I decided to do."

Coker has been playing professionally for about a year and his most recent victory has him feeling validated and more confident than ever. During heads-up play he was seen handing his cellphone to tournament staff instructing what kind of photo to take when the final river card hit the felt, hoping to capture his championship moment.

"I told all of my friends it would happen one day, I just didn't know when. Today is that day," Coker said of his victory. "I've been saying that for over a year and a half now. I'm proud of myself and I'm proud of what I did today."

Coker's road to gold was not an easy one and it went right through Casey Jarzabek. Jarzabek's poker resume boasts almost \$5 million in online earnings and numerous tournament cashes throughout the United States and Canada. Jarzabek set the pace for much of Day 2, but was unable to match the rush of cards Coker experienced. He finished sixth and earned \$6,730.

A notable player to cash in Event 1 was Anthony Rapp. Rapp played Mark Cohen in the award-winning Broadway musical and feature film “Rent”. His other films include “A Beautiful Mind”, “Road Trip” and “Dazed and Confused”. Rapp placed 22nd for \$1,268. This marked his second time to cash in a WSOP event.

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah’s Resort AC. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em tournament attracted 536 entries. The total prize pool came to \$162,944 and the top 54 players were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points.

The tournament began Thursday at 12 p.m. and played out over the course of two consecutive days. Day 2 began at 3 p.m. Friday with 30 players remaining. The nine-handed final table began at 7 p.m. Play finished at 3:45 a.m. making the total duration of the final table eight hours and 45 minutes (including a one-hour dinner break.)

### **Notes on the Event**

- Event 1 was the first of 12 ring events scheduled at the 2012-13 Circuit series at Harrah’s Resort.
- The victory marked the first WSOP cash of Coker’s young career.
- The tournament’s second place finish, Brian Benden, also recorded his first WSOP cash.
- Final table play began at 7 p.m. November 30 and stretched into the morning hours of December 1.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Harrah’s Resort’s twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title “Casino Champion” and receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million WSOP National Championship to take place in New Orleans May 2013.

All players who cash in ring events will receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion race and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah’s Resort.

EVENT #1: Jacob Coker defeated 536 players (\$365 NLH) for \$35,033

With the first tournament now wrapped, 11 more ring events remain to take place at Harrah’s Resort.

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