

2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Harrah's Resort Atlantic City
Atlantic City, NJ
Event #8
Limit Omaha Eight or Better
Buy-In: \$320 (+\$45)
Total Entries: 164
Prize Pool: \$49,856
December 6-7, 2012



Miami John Cernuto Adds to the Legend

Three-time WSOP gold bracelet champion nabs second Circuit ring on the eve of the Main Event.

Atlantic City, NJ (December 8, 2012) — Three-time WSOP gold bracelet champion “Miami” John Cernuto outlasted a field of 164 in Event 8, a \$365 Limit Omaha Eight or Better event to earn his second Circuit gold ring at Harrah’s Resort Saturday morning. The victory added to his illustrious WSOP resume and he now boasts two Circuit wins.

“It feels pretty good, it’s been a long time waiting. The last (ring came at) Lake Tahoe, and that was like 66 years ago, I think,” Cernuto said with a laugh. “The competition was tough. We played three hours heads up. The structure was really, really good. I’d like to tip my hat to (the WSOP) for coming up with that structure.”

Cernuto’s previous WSOP Circuit ring came in 2005 at Harvey’s Lake Tahoe in a \$1,500 No-Limit Hold’em event. He won bracelets in 1996, 1997 and 2002 and amassed more than \$1.6 million in career earnings at the WSOP in the process. The \$13,461 first place prize in Event 8 pales in comparison to the riches he accumulated over the years, but Cernuto admits it’s about more than dollars.

“It’s not about the money as much as it’s about the competition for me because I always try hard,” Cernuto said. “I never really give up. I have a very competitive nature. It has just kind of stuck with me for the last 20 years. I enjoy playing tournaments. I’m a sucker for them.”

Cernuto’s heads-up opponent, Ron Fast, proved to be worthy of his competitive nature. On more than one occasion Fast bounced back from extreme chip deficits to give Cernuto a run for his money. Alas, Fast succumbed, but the victory proved bittersweet to Cernuto.

“(Fast) really, really wanted to win the ring for his mom,” Cernuto said. “His mom is ill and I almost wished he won it, but the cards have it that I just got lucky. It would have been nice to see him win, too -- either one of us.”

Fast’s mother has all the reason in the world to be proud of her son as he gave it everything he could and could not have been more gracious in the process.

Cernuto's latest victory came on the eve of the Main Event, which begins Saturday at 11 p.m. He intended to play the Main Event all along, but says his gold ring victory gives him a lot more confidence and he expects good things to happen in the Harrah's Resort finale.

Event 8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Resort. The \$365 Limit Omaha Eight or Better tournament attracted 164 entries. The total prize pool came to \$49,856 and the top 18 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 5 p.m. and lasted 16 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 3 p.m. with 33 players remaining. The nine-handed final table began at 6:45 p.m. Play finished at about 12:20 a.m. making the total duration of the final table just under six hours.

Notes on the Event

- Event 8 was the first non-Hold'em event of the 2012-2013 series at Harrah's Resort. Additionally, it was the only 5 p.m.-start tournament.
- Cernuto's 2002 bracelet came in a \$1,500 Limit Omaha event.
- Ming Reslock (10th) is the wife of gold bracelet champion Chris Reslock.

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 receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion's 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
EVENT #2: Brandon Fish defeated 858 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$50,862
EVENT #3: Daniel Marcus defeated 197 players (\$580 NLH) for \$25,546
EVENT #4: Moshe Bernstein defeated 422 players (\$365 NLH) for \$28,223
EVENT #5: Yury Parad defeated 260 players (\$580 NLH) for \$31,770
EVENT #6: Alan Cutler defeated 329 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$23,504
EVENT #7: James Gilbert defeated 196 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$50,106
EVENT #8: John Cernuto defeated 164 players (\$365 Limit O8) for \$13,461

With the eighth tournament now wrapped, four more ring events remain at Harrah's Resort.

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Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lukasmwillems@gmail.com.