

**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit**  
**Season Nine**  
**Choctaw Casino Resort**  
**Durant, OK**  
**Event #1**  
**No-Limit Hold'em**  
**Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)**  
**Total Entries: 481**  
**Prize Pool: \$144,300**  
**January 10-11, 2013**



## **James Henson Wins Second Ring at Choctaw Casino**

**Event 1 draws 481, marking third largest non-re-entry tournament of 2012-2013.**

**Durant, Okla. (January 12, 2013)** — The 2012-2013 WSOP Circuit Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof began Thursday at Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, OK. Event 1, a \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament and the first of 12 gold ring events, drew 481 entrants, making it the third largest non-re-entry \$365 event of the season.

James Henson from Lake Jackson, Tex. outlasted the sizable field to record his second WSOP Circuit championship. Henson won \$31,021, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and took the early lead in the Casino Champion's race.

"It feels good. It was fun and I had a great time. The first [ring] was special but this is good," Henson said of his second victory.

Henson began Day 2 toward the bottom of the chip counts and said his past experiences helped keep him in the tournament. Closing the deal was no easy task, as Henson faced two fellow Circuit champions three-handed -- Joshua Pender (3rd) and Royce Prude (2nd.)

Pender earned his first ring this year at IP Biloxi, while Prude earned his at Choctaw two years ago. Henson's first championship came almost one year ago at Palm Beach Kennel Club when he bested 290 in a \$555 No-Limit Hold'em tournament to earn \$33,749.

"The guys that I was playing against, they were both good there was no question about it," Henson said. "I was not looking forward to going up against either one of them. They very much knew what they were doing."

Henson's most recent victory pushed him over the \$200,000 mark in career WSOP earnings. Married with four children, he insists poker takes a back seat to his professional life.

"I go to about four Circuits a year. That's how much I can make time for. It's completely a hobby," Henson said.

Look out, poker world. Retirement isn't that far off for this 55-year-old orthodontist and one can expect to see him spending more time on the felt when that time comes.

Gold ring events at Choctaw Resort run now through January 21. All eyes are currently only the \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry Event 2. Days 1A and 1B played alongside Event 1 and drew a total of 930 entrants. Days 1C and 1D begin Saturday at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. Attendance records are likely to be broken if the strong turnout continues.

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Resort. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 481 entries. The total prize pool came to \$144,300 and the top 54 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with 24 players remaining. The nine-handed final table began at 6:15. Play finished at about 12 a.m. making the total duration of the final table five hours and 45 minutes including a one-hour dinner break.

### **Notes on the Event**

- Event 1 was the third largest non-re-entry \$365 event of the 2012-2013 WSOP Circuit season.
- Pender earned his sixth cash of 2012-2013.
- Two-time champion David Clark headlined the Day 2 starters. He finished 10th, earning \$2,322 and his 24th career Circuit cash.
- The final table included three WSOP Circuit champions; Prude (Choctaw, 2011), Pender (Biloxi, 2012) and Henson (Palm Beach, 2012). The tournament's 10th place finish, Clark, lays claim to two rings.
- There were two ladies at the final table; Terri Hoffman (5th) and Vivian "Vickie" Belcher (6th).

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Choctaw Resort's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof.

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 Choctaw Resort:

EVENT #1: James Henson defeated 481 players (\$365 NLH) for \$31,021

With the first tournament wrapped, 11 more ring events remain at Choctaw Casino.

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