



2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Harrah's Tunica
Event #2
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$365
Total Entries: 611
Total Prize Pool: \$183,300
January 25 – January 26, 2013

Sean Maurer Takes Down Event #2 at Harrah's Tunica

22-year old Illinois factory worker manufactures a win in his first live tournament

TUNICA, MS – Event #2 at Harrah's Tunica drew to a close Saturday night with Sean Maurer, a 22-year-old factory worker from Grayville, IL taking home the top prize, worth \$43,880 and the WSOP Circuit Gold Ring.

Event #2 attracted 611 players and generated a total prize pool of \$183,300. The top 63 finishers made it to the money.

A cash game player, this was Maurer's first ever live tournament. He says that he had tempered expectations for his first venture into the tournament scene and was unsure that he had the patience to go far in a deep-structured event like those offered at the World Series of Poker Circuit Events.

"I guess I was wrong," said Maurer with a grin.

Even after having ended day one with the chip lead, Maurer was very cautiously optimistic.

"I looked at today's restart list and thought about just taking that and framing it."

After 21 levels of play on day one, the remaining 25 players returned to the Event Center at Harrah's Tunica to play down to a winner. After about four hours of play, only nine remained. Maurer was second in chips to start final table play.

Name	Hometown	Seat	Chip Count
Mark Bell	Louisville, KY	1	780,000
Sean Maurer	Grayville, IL	2	960,000
Ryan Turner	Rochester, IL	3	440,000
Ber Xiong	Lawrenceville, GA	4	860,000
Paul McKanna	Nashville, TN	5	200,000
Donna Heard	Truman, AR	6	460,000
Kevin Praytor	Argo, AL	7	540,000
Ben DeForrest	St. Louis, MO	8	1,245,000
Calvin Simpson	Memphis, TN	9	300,000

Maurer stayed near the top of the chip counts for much of the night, maintaining cruise control as his opponents fell one by one, including the final table chip leader, Ben DeForrest who finished in sixth.

After about 3.5 hours of play, it got down to him and Mark Bell, a 43-year-old poker player from Louisville, KY. Heads up action last about 30 minutes before Bell got it all in post-flop with pocket fours against Maurer who made the call with pocket sixes. The sixes held, giving Maurer the victory.

"I'm speechless right now, I can't even describe how I feel right now" said Maurer about how it felt to seal the win.

Despite his quick and early success, Maurer's says he has no plans to start playing full-time.

"My job doesn't pay big money, but its steady and I don't have the stress of playing professionally." "I'll keep playing tournaments like this one but I'm going back to work on Monday," said Maurer.

"But I'll be walking in with a big smile."

In addition to first place prize money and the ring, Maurer earned 50 points toward the Harrah's Tunica Casino Championship, tying him with Event #1 winner John Holley.

The Casino Champion is the player who earns the most points through the 12 events at Harrah's Tunica. This player will earn an automatic seat to the WSOP Circuit National Championship to be held May 21 – May 23 at Harrah's New Orleans. More information about the WSOPC National Championship can be found [here](#). An explanation of the points system can be found [here](#).

10 events are still to come. See the complete Harrah's Tunica Circuit schedule and event results [here](#). The WSOP Circuit Events at Harrah's Tunica runs through February 4th. You can find the complete 2012-2013 WSOP Circuit schedule [here](#).

Final table results

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>CITY / STATE / COUNTRY</u>	<u>CASH EARNED</u>
1	Sean Maurer	Grayville, IL, US	\$43,880
2	Mark Bell	JEFFERSONVILLE, IN, US	\$23,809
3	Kevin Praytor	ODENVILLE, AL, US	\$17,410
4	Ryan Turner	Rochester, IL, US	\$12,919
5	Ber Xiong	LAWRENCEVILLE, GA, US	\$9,720
6	Benjamin Deforrest	BALLWIN, MO, US	\$7,414
7	Donna Heard	TRUMAN, AR, US	\$5,734
8	Calvin Simpson	NASHVILLE, IN, US	\$4,495
9	Paul Mckanna	Nashville, TN, US	\$3,571

Tournament Notes

- This was event #2 of the Harrah's Tunica Series.
- Day one began with 611 players and played 21 levels. 25 players remained by the end of play at 2 am.
- Five-time WSOP Circuit champion, Kyle Cartwright was eliminated in the final hand of play on day 1.
- The final table began at around 7:00 pm local time and ended shortly before 11:00 pm for a total of three hours of play.

ABOUT HARRAH'S TUNICA

Harrah's Tunica is located 20 minutes south of Memphis, Tennessee and was originally opened in 1996 as Grand Casino. On May, 23, 2008 Paula Deen cut the official grand opening ribbon at Harrah's Tunica featuring the first of its kind Paula Deen Buffet and an interactive gaming floor that is the largest in the region. Spanning over 2,000 acres Harrah's Tunica features the Links at Cottonwoods championship golf course designed by Hale Irwin, Willows Sporting Clays and Hunting Center, the Mid-South Convention Center offering over 65,000 square feet of indoor meeting space, three elegant hotels totaling 1356 hotel rooms, the 200-space Mid-South RV Resort, Bellissimo Spa and Salon, and a 2,400 seat event center that features headline entertainment.

ABOUT THE WSOP

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) is the largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world awarding millions of dollars in prize money and the prestigious gold bracelet, globally recognized as the sport's top prize. Featuring a comprehensive slate of tournaments in every major poker variation, the WSOP is poker's longest running tournament in the world, dating back to 1970. In 2012, the event attracted 74,766 entrants from 101 different countries to the Rio in Las Vegas and awarded over \$222 million in prize money. In addition, the WSOP has formed groundbreaking alliances in broadcasting, digital media and corporate sponsorships, while successfully

expanding the brand internationally with the advent in 2007 of the World Series of Poker Europe. The WSOP Circuit Tour is entering its ninth season in 2012-13. For more information on the World Series of Poker, please visit www.WSOP.com.

ABOUT SOUTHERN COMFORT

Southern Comfort®, a fruit, spice, and whiskey flavored liqueur, was created in New Orleans by bartender M.W. Heron in 1874. Today, it is enjoyed by friends in over 100 countries around the world and continues to grow as an icon brand. Please visit us at SouthernComfort.com and facebook.com/southerncomfort.

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