



**2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
 Season Nine  
 Harrah's Tunica  
 Event #10  
 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event  
 Buy-In: \$1,675  
 Total Entries: 666  
 Total Prize Pool: \$999,000  
 February 1 – February 4, 2013**

**WSOP Circuit Main Event**

**Local engineer pockets \$204,795 and a seat to the WSOP National Championship**

**After more than four hours three-handed, Stevenson defeats final opponent in first hand of heads up play.**

**biggest prize pool since 2008**

TUNICA, MS . Ryan Stevenson, a 26-year-old engineer, won the WSOP Circuit Main Event shortly after midnight Tuesday to take home first place prize, worth \$204,795 and the WSOP Circuit gold ring.

For Stevenson, whose previous career earnings totaled just over \$13,000, it was a phenomenal breakout victory.

"I'm dumbfounded right now," said Stevenson after the win. "This is a dream come true, especially for us grinders who put in a lot of work on and off the felt."

666 players entered the WSOP Circuit Main Event, making it the largest Main Event field in the eight-year history of the WSOP Circuit. The \$1,675 buy-in championship event generated a \$999,000 prize pool, the largest in the WSOP Circuit's history.

Flights A and B yielded 99 survivors who returned for play on Day 2. After the money bubble burst just after two hours into Day 2 play, the rash of eliminations began, including those of notables Ari Engel, Kyle Cartwright, Allen Sefton, John Dolan, Claudia Crawford and WSOP Circuit livestream host, Bernard Lee.

The elimination of Daniel Blakeman in 10<sup>th</sup> place just after 1am Monday set the stage for the final table.

Stevenson began the final table third in chips and would experience a tumultuous 10 hours at the Final Table before finally sealing up the win. Stevenson says his early strategy was to play conservative, but he mixed it up early with the Final Table chip leader, Andrew Rothfolk, who he says he became familiar with during the second day of play.

On Day 2, said Stevenson. "I was aggressive and I was aggressive."

Whether he intended to get fancy or not, Stevenson ended up being the aggressor at the final table, having eliminated the final five players. Another opponent with whom Stevenson had gotten acquainted with on day two was Michael Sanders.

Sanders, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the WSOP Circuit Main Event at Choctaw last year, was the most accomplished among the final nine and had experience along with a sizable amount of chips to put him at an advantage over his remaining opponents. Rothfolk was undaunted, however, and managed to wrestle away the chip lead from Sanders early into Final Table play.

Sanders ultimately fell short of taking the top prize and finished in fourth place (\$69,121). After his elimination, play slowed to a crawl, with play continuing for over four hours three-handed.

It took over four hours for three-handed play to get down to heads up. At one point during three-handed play, Stevenson had fallen to just eight big blinds, but was able to get a critical double up, build his stack back up and eliminate Rothfolk in 3<sup>rd</sup> place (\$92,947).

Heads up play ended as quickly as it began. One hand into heads up play, Stevenson and Norman McKeldin got it all in after the flop on a [4s][Td][8d] board, Stevenson had flopped top pair with [Tc][7d] while McKeldin turned over [Ad][Kd].

With overcards and a flush draw, McKeldin was still in good shape to take the colossal pot. "I run good," McKeldin said to Stevenson just before the [Kc] fell on the turn. Then in an instant reversal of fortune, the dealer turned over the [7h] on the river to give Stevenson the win and eliminate McKeldin in 2<sup>nd</sup> place [\$126,723]

In addition to his \$204k score and the ring, Stevenson was awarded a seat into the WSOP National Championship, which takes place May 21-23 at the Párláimint Átha Cliath, Árainn Ríada.

Stevenson will earn an automatic seat to the WSOP Circuit National Championship to be held May 21 - May 23 at the Párláimint Átha Cliath, Árainn Ríada. More information about the WSOPC National Championship can be found [here](#). An explanation of the points system can be found [here](#).

2 events are still to come in the WSOP Circuit schedule and event results [here](#). The WSOP Circuit runs through February 4<sup>th</sup>. 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	Ryan Stevenson	HORN LAKE, MS, US	\$204,795
2	Norman Mckeldin	Chattanooga, TN, US	\$126,723
3	Andrew Rothfolk	DAYTON, TN, US	\$92,947
4	Michael Sanders	LAS VEGAS, NV, US	\$69,121
5	Jonathan Cary	FRANKFORT, KY, US	\$52,098
6	James Watkins	Guy, AR, US	\$39,790
7	Mark Maletic	CANTON, MI, US	\$30,789
8	Jerry Barlow	WESTMINSTER, SC, US	\$24,136
9	David Kruger	SLATER, MO, US	\$19,161

The Párláimint Átha Cliath, Árainn Ríada is a see and was originally opened in 1996 as Grand Oárláimint Átha Cliath, Árainn Ríada. It features Paula Deen Buffet and an interactive gaming floor that is the largest in the region. Spanning over 2,000 acres, the Párláimint Átha Cliath, Árainn Ríada features a variety of amenities including 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](http://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](http://SouthernComfort.com) and [facebook.com/southerncomfort](https://facebook.com/southerncomfort).

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