

**2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Horseshoe Casino
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 260
Prize Pool: \$78,000
April 11-12, 2013**



Nick Jivkov Becomes a Three-Time Champion in Council Bluffs

34-year-old WSOP gold bracelet will adds a third Circuit ring to his resume.

Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 12, 2013) — First a ring, then a bracelet. That’s the old adage on the WSOP Circuit. Gold bracelet champion Nick Jivkov has ideas of his own, though, and his adage goes something like this: first a ring, then a bracelet, then a couple more rings, then hopefully a few more bracelets.

He’s keeping up his end of the deal, too. Jivkov bested 260 entrants in the opening event at Horseshoe Council Bluffs Friday night, winning his third WSOP Circuit gold ring, \$19,110 and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

Jivkov is a veteran of the WSOP, having won his first ring in 2010 at IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, Miss. He followed the adage, winning a bracelet and \$189,818 less than two years later in Las Vegas. He continued his winnings ways nabbing ring number two just a few months ago at Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind., and finally, ring number three Friday night in Iowa.

“I hold the rings and the bracelet in very high regard,” Jivkov said. “When I won my bracelet, to be honest with you, the \$200,000 that it came with was the largest amount I had won up to that point and I didn’t even realize that until three days later. The overwhelming feeling of winning a WSOP bracelet was so big that the money didn’t even enter into my mind until two or three days later. To some aspect [the trophies] are even more important [than the money], because they validate what I’m doing.”

Jivkov’s most recent championship performance came in the opening event at Horseshoe Casino located in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The “12 rings in 12 days series” began Thursday and runs through April 22. He came here chasing points toward the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof and the 50 he earned in Event 1 are a great start toward a seat in the season-ending freeroll.

Unbeknownst to his competitors, the victory may have been Jivkov’s from the start.

“I felt that this was destiny for me,” Jivkov said. “When we pulled in the parking lot [last night] my odometer read 33,333 miles and we walked in the hotel room at 3:33 a.m. I told my friend and my wife I thought it was some type of a sign because I was playing for my third ring.”

Jivkov’s title didn’t come without a fight. He outlasted the likes of his close friend Jose Serratos (27th) and Zal Irani (12th) and bested a final table that included WSOP Circuit champion Everett Carlton (4th) as well as Drew Woodke (8th), Jason Mayfield (3rd) and the runner-up, Patrick Dixon.

“It feels excellent. I couldn’t be happier,” Jivkov said. “To come here and take the title -- my third ring -- and to get back in the hunt for the seat in the National Championship feels awesome.”

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em tournament attracted 260 entries. The total prize pool came to \$78,000 and the top 27 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 3 p.m. with 13 players remaining. The nine-handed final table began at 3:45 p.m. and play finished at about 9:45 p.m. making the total duration of the final table six hours including a 45-minute dinner break.

Notes on the Event

- Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the schedule for the 2012-2013 WSOP Circuit at Horseshoe Council Bluffs.
- The final table included two gold ring champions; Jivkov (also a gold bracelet champion), and Carlton (fourth).
- Jovkov (Bulgaria) was the only non-American-born player to cash in the event.
- Fred Walker (5th) now has 10 career WSOP-related cashes. Impressively, seven of them have come in the form of final table appearances including two third place finishes in the 1994 and 1995 WSOP in Las Vegas.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Council Bluff’s 12 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 Horseshoe Council Bluffs:

EVENT #1: Nick Jivkov defeated 260 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,110.

With the first tournament wrapped, 11 more ring events remain at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com. For additional information please contact:

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