



2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Caesars Atlantic City
Atlantic City, NJ
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 495
Prize Pool: \$148,500
March 1, 2013

Cory Waaland Wins Caesars Atlantic City's Opener

Online Poker Pro “MJ23STYLEZ” Does His Michael Jordan Pose

Poker Action Continues on the Jersey Shore Through March 11th

Atlantic City, NJ (March 1, 2013) – Let's do the math.

Basketball great Michael Jordan is from North Carolina. Cory Waaland is from North Carolina.

Jordan played his best when the pressure was on. Waaland played his best poker when it counted the most.

Jordan beat the very best and consistently won championships. Waaland knocked out every single player at the most recent final table.

Jordan has several world championship gold rings. Well, Waaland at least now as one gold ring.

The 26-year-old poker pro from Greenville, won the most recent WSOP Circuit tournament which was played at Caesars Atlantic City. He topped a big field of 495 players en route to an impressive first time victory that paid \$31,928 in prize money. Known in the online poker world for his moniker – MJ 23 STYLEZ – one can see immediately see the Michael Jordan references. After he won, Waaland even performed the all-too-familiar Jordan shrub with his palms turned up, as if to say “I can do no wrong.”

Indeed, Waaland did no wrong on this night – busting every single player at the final table in a long session that lasted some nine hours. It was the culmination of a two-day competition which ended very late on Friday night inside a nearly deserted poker arena, except for a few of Waaland's close friends, and the eventual runner up – Charlie, Xu from Mays Landing, NJ.

“This is sweet,” Waaland said. “It all went great for me tonight. It was about as perfect as it gets.”

The final table finishers were as follows:

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|---|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| 1 | Cory Waaland | GREENVILLE, NC | \$31,928 |
| 2 | Charlie Xu | MAYS LANDING, NJ | \$19,740 |
| 3 | Thomas Ennis | BLACKWOOD, NJ | \$14,421 |
| 4 | David Clarke | BEDMINSTER, NJ, US | \$10,691 |
| 5 | Michael Marder | SEWELL, NJ, US | \$8,040 |
| 6 | Bogdan Berdej | LANDING, NJ, US | \$6,133 |
| 7 | Mitch Friedberg | CHERRY HILL, NJ, US | \$4,745 |
| 8 | Greg Pogarsky | REXFORD, NY US | \$3,723 |
| 9 | Timothy Bishop | SHADYSIDE, OH, US | \$2,963 |

Tournament Notes

- This was the first event of this year's WSOP Circuit being played at Caesars Atlantic City.
- The two-day tournament began with 495 players. After 14 hours of play on Day One, only 29 survivors remained.
- There were 29 players that started Day Two. It took about three hours to play down to the final nine.
- The final table included no gold ring winners.
- The final table went about nine hours and ended at 3:30 am.

As the first gold ring winner, Cory Waaland takes the early lead in the Casino Champion race for the Caesars Atlantic City series. He accumulated 50 points for his victory.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Caesars Atlantic City's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof. The qualifier will join the winner of the \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (March 9-11), who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in gold ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for Caesars Atlantic City events only) and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids to be awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at Caesars Atlantic City runs through March 1, 2013.

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