



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Bicycle Casino
Bell Gardens, CA
Event #10
Main Event Championship
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$1,500 (+175)
Total Entries: 721
Prize Pool: \$1,081,500
January 12-14, 2013**

Baptiste Chavaillaz Wins Main Event Championship

Music Industry Professional Enjoys Biggest Victory at Bicycle Casino

Chavaillaz Outlasts Record-Setting 732-Player Field in Los Angeles

Bell Gardens, CA (January 14, 2013) – Baptiste Chavaillaz is accustomed to living life in the fast lane. He works in the music business and travels all over the world with famous bands and recording artists. But he produced a major hit of his own tonight, by winning the latest World Series of Poker Main Event Championship, held at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles.

Chavaillaz pulled off what must be classified as a major surprise, defeating a formidable final day lineup which featured several accomplished rivals, including multiple players with millions in career tournament winnings. But it was Chavaillaz who performed like the consummate pro, beating some of the world's best players at their own game. Indeed, in Chavaillaz's parlance, it was the equivalent of an amateur musician taking the stage and out-jamming Eric Clapton, out-singing Alicia Keys, or out-rapping Jay-Z.

This day was music to Chavaillaz's ears. The royalty for his winning tune amounted to a whopping \$216,275. He was also presented with his first WSOP Circuit gold ring. Moreover, Chavaillaz earned an automatic qualification into the WSOP National Championship presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof, which takes place in May.

“How much did I win?” Chavaillaz asked nonchalantly following his surprise victory. When told the exact amount and the tax bite upon the figure, he added, “I'm paying more in taxes on this tournament than anything I've ever won on my life!”

All joking aside, Chavaillaz has absolutely no complaints.

“It's all still sinking in,” he said. “I've been playing poker for 12 years. But I've never had anything like this happen before. I had not even played in a major tournament like this, ever.”

Chavaillaz is a 30-year-old music industry professional. He was born in Fribourg, Switzerland and arrived in the United States at the age of ten. His family settled down in Florida. Later, Chavaillaz graduated from the University of Central Florida. He got into the music business, moved to New York City, and began enjoying success.

Chavaillaz now calls Portland, OR his home. Currently, he works with several major acts, handling their logistics and travel. He often tours the world and visits many exciting places. “I get on 350 planes a year,” Chavaillaz said.

But this poker table may very well have been his most exciting tour stop, given the personal satisfaction and amount of prize money winnings.

The odds of realizing this victorious moment were stacked against Chavaillaz from the very start. Given little experience at this level, just making the money would have been an accomplishment. Making the final table would have been a dream. And winning would have seemed unthinkable. But it happened.

“I decided to come to The Bike and play as many events as I could,” Chavaillaz said. “I blanked everything this week. I did one final super satellite into the Main, and I blanked that, too. So, I decided since I was here to go ahead and buy-in.”

Chavaillaz made quite a return for his investment, but he also had at least one stroke of incredible luck along the way. When 12 players remained, Chavaillaz was getting short on chips., but rival Doug Lee was shorter. The two players got into a confrontation that would prove critical to the tournament's outcome as Chavaillaz spiked a three-outer to scoop a monster-sized pot. That win set the pace for the remainder of the tournament.

The latest WSOP Circuit champion plans to return to the music business and go back to the road shortly.

“I don't have a nine to five job,” he said. “I'm on-call 24 hours a day. I work long days and short nights. Come to think of it, what I do is a lot like a poker tournament. It's a grind.”

The Final Table

The final table finishers were as follows:

9th Place – Erik Roussakis made his third WSOP Circuit Main Event final table appearance of the season. After taking ninth place at Horseshoe Hammond and fifth place at Harrah's Rincon, Roussakis repeated his impressive showing with another top-nine finish. Remarkably, Roussakis has only played in only four WSOP Circuit events *and he has final tabled every single one*. Ninth place paid \$20,430.

8th Place – Nathan Bjerno took eighth place, which paid \$25,730. He is a 24-year-old semi-pro from Chino Hills, CA. Bjerno found success earlier at The Bike's series when he won a gold ring in Event 5 (\$580 NLHE), which paid \$21,180. This deep run in the Main Event catapulted him into the lead in the highly-competitive Casino Champion race. Bjerno's impressive resume extend beyond this tournament series. Last year, Bjerno won the California State Poker

Championship Main Event for over \$130,000. His career earnings are approaching nearly \$200,000.

7th Place – David Malka finished in seventh place, which paid \$32,800. He has three career cashes to his credit – but this stands has his biggest score. Malka is a Los Angeles native who owns his own internet marketing company.

6th Place – Jesus Gastelum, from Chula Vista, CA took sixth place. He collected \$42,340. This is fourth career tournament cash and his first on the WSOP Circuit. He previously had success in a \$1,000 WSOP bracelet event in 2011, finishing in 122nd in a field of 3,175. Born in Mexico, he is an auto mechanic who is married with three children.

5th Place – George (Huicun) Qiao exited in fifth place, collecting \$55,340. He is a Chinese-born, poker pro from the Los Angeles area. Qiao is two-time LA Poker Open event winner whose biggest score was his Main Event victory in 2010 -- worth more than \$130,000. He has several cashes to his credit, totaling more than \$440,000 overall in tournament winnings.

4th Place – Jared Ingles, from New Orleans, came in fourth. He earned \$73,270. Ingles has eight WSOP cashes to his credit, most notably a 56th place finish in the 2010 WSOP Main Event Championship. He also took ninth place in the 2010 Circuit Main Event in New Orleans. With this impressive showing, his career earnings are now close to \$500,000.

3rd Place – Eric Varel took third place, which paid \$98,310. He is primarily a cash game player. Varel is an Air Force veteran currently working in music and television production. He resides in Los Angeles.

2nd Place – Zhang Chen finished as the runner-up. He collected \$133,350 in prize money. Although he's cashed elsewhere at various tournaments, this is his first WSOP cash of any kind. He lists his occupation as “researcher.”

1st Place – Baptiste Chavaillaz

Other Players In-the-Money

The top 81 finishers collected prize money.

Notables who cashed include Leo Wolpert (81st), Eric Cloutier (75th), Sam Barnhart (73rd), Jay Newnum (57th), Derrick Yamada (56th), Adam Weinraub (42nd), Susie Zhao (37th), David Randall (22nd), Ryan Lenaghan (21st), Name Le (13th), Doug Lee (12th), and Joe Tehan (10th).

Tournament Notes

- This was the tenth event of this year's WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino.

- Saturday: Day One began with two flights of 721 starters. Flight A began at noon. Flight B began at 5 pm. Both sessions played about nine hours and then recessed for the night.
- Sunday: Day Two started with 220 players. After 15.5 hours of play, only 13 players survived.
- Monday: Day Three began 13 players. After about two hours, the final table of nine players was set.
- The final table included just one previous gold ring winner – Nathan Bjerno. He ended up finishing eighth.
- This was Erik Roussakis' third championship final table this season. He previously made finales at Horseshoe Hammond (November), Harrah's Rincon (December), and now here at The Bicycle Casino.
- The final table went about nine hours, an average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events of this caliber.
- The final table was broadcast live (with short delay) on ESPN3 and at the WSOP.com website.

WSOP National Championship

Winner Baptiste Chavaillaz earned an automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof. The qualifier will join the Casino Champion for The Bicycle Casino series, who also wins an automatic seat. Note: That player has yet to be officially determined at the time of this report.

All players who cash in gold ring events this season receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race at each stop 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.

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