



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Bicycle Casino
Bell Gardens, CA
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 273
Prize Pool: \$81,900
January 3-4, 2013**

Clark Harney Wins Bike Opener

High School Math Teacher Wins Gold Ring in First-Ever WSOP Circuit Entry

Defending Champion Huy Quach Finishes 13th

Bell Gardens, CA (January 4, 2013) – It appears that the best prerequisite for winning a gold ring is to earn a college degree in math.

That's what the most recent Casino Champion did, as Valentin Vornicu from San Diego managed to earn top honors at last month's WSOP Circuit stop at Harrah's Rincon. Vornicu is a math teacher and even operates his own academic website, featuring math topics.

Clark Harney must know how to add and subtract equally as well. He successfully divided up the field and then multiplied his poker winnings several times over with his first-ever major tournament victory, which just completed at The Bicycle Casino, in Bell Gardens, CA.

Harney, a UC-Santa Barbara graduate now teaches high school math. The 23-year-old resides in Newhall, CA. Harney plays poker part time. However, this marked his first time to play in a WSOP Circuit tournament, ultimately resulting in a payday worth \$19,660 in prize money. He also collected his first gold ring, which is the symbolic prize for winning a tour victory.

“I'm very happy right now,” Harney said afterward. “I really think this was a tough final table, so to be able to get there at the end and win it is hard for me to believe.”

Harney played a magnificent tournament from start to finish. He never had the chip lead until the very end, when he seized the advantage away from the eventual runner up, Chad Bruhn, from Tempe, AZ.

The final hand of the tournament was a dream come true for Harney. He was dealt pocket nines. Little did he know, but Bruhn had pocket aces. A nine flopped and the proverbial dye was cast. Bruhn raised all in, and Harney snapped called – leaving the underdog drawing to just two outs. They didn't come, which gave Harney the top prize.

“I got a little lucky on the last hand, that's for sure,” Harney said. “I was not just fortunate to flop the nine, but also that Chad had a big hand too, with the aces.”

Harney was adamant in his belief that math helps him be a better player and also enabled him to win the tournament. However, he also conveyed that it's important to play people and situations.

“No doubt math is a big part of it,” he said. “But at a final table like this, you have to use everything you have – not just math but all the instincts you have.”

Harney doesn't plan to do much differently, despite just recording his biggest poker payday ever. He hopes to play in a few more events. But he's going back to class when school resumes next week.

“I'm going back to work on Monday morning,” he said.

At least Harney will be going back to work nearly \$20,000 richer. And his students might notice he picked up a gold ring over the holiday break.

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The top-nine (final table) finishers were as follows:

1	Clark Harney	Newhall	CA	\$19,660.00
2	Chad Bruhn	Tempe	AZ	\$12,145.00
3	Jordan Cristos	Palmdale	CA	\$8,815.00
4	Kristin Weeks	Crandell	TX	\$6,505.00

5	Kent Keilholtz	Orange	CA	\$4,873.00
6	A. Ghazvinian	Reseda	CA	\$3,715.00
7	Robert McVeigh	Huntington Beach	CA	\$2,875.00
8	Stephen Rivera	Northridge	CA	\$2,260.00
9	Robert Lundin	Lancaster	CA	\$1,805.00

Tournament Notes

- This was the opening event of this year's WSOP Circuit being held at The Bicycle Casino.
- Day One began with 273 starters for the noon start. By the end of 14 hours of play at 2 am, only ten remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another half-hour before the final table session began.
- Chad Bruhn, a college student at Arizona State University finished at the runner up.
- The final hand saw Harney win with three nines versus Bruhn's pocket aces.
- Huy Quach, the defending champion from this event last year, finished in 13th place.
- The final table went about six hours, which is about the average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events.

As the first winner, Clark Harney takes the early lead in the Casino Champion race for the Bicycle Casino series. He now has 50 points here at The Bike and 50 combined points for all events this season.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Los Angeles' twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title "Casino Champion" and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP Circuit National Championship. The qualifier will join the winner of the \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (January 12-14), 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 Bicycle Casino 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 The Bicycle Casino runs through January 14, 2013.

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