



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Bicycle Casino
Bell Gardens, CA
Event #4
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 198
Prize Pool: \$59,400
January 7-8, 2013**

Amir Ghazvinian Finally Wins Gold Ring

Three Days After Coming in Sixth, Los Angeles Engineer Takes First

Latest Champion Overcomes 9 to 1 Chip Heads-Up Disadvantage

Bell Gardens, CA (January 8, 2013) – Amir Ghazvinian became the poker player to catch in the Casino Champion race at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles. He just won his first WSOP Circuit victory after taking sixth place in an event held three nights ago. Tonight's victory rubber stamped Ghazvinian's status as the Best All-Around Player so far at this tournament series.

The Iranian-born engineer now residing in Los Angeles defeated a formidable field totaling 198 entries, and then worked some extra-special magic at the final table, outlasting a strong lineup of finalists. Foremost among them was eventual runner-up Oscar Zavala, who appeared to be in command as the tournament came to its conclusion. But Ghazvinian demonstrated extraordinary patience and skill en route to his first WSOP-related victory, following several tries here and at the big summer event in Las Vegas.

“I was very happy to win,” Ghazvinian said, fatigued after the long short-handed battle. “I never had that many chips at the final table, but when we got heads-up I think I was in a good position. I had to make up some chips because I only had 150,000 left at one point. But it was a nice comeback and I am very happy right now.”

Indeed, after holding an average stack-size during most of the second day's action, Ghazvinian was actually in the chip lead when heads-up play began. He led Zavala by about a 2 to 1 margin.

But then Zavala went on a tear. He had his adversary down to a single stack and was on his way to victory. At that point, the cards turned and Ghazvinian managed to dominate play during the final 20 minutes of the tournament. Heads-up play lasted nearly two hours.

In fact, when play was four-handed, the battle went three hours before anyone was eliminated. In what was unquestionably the least predictable finale of any so far at The Bike's WSOP Circuit series, multiple players made unexpected comebacks. However, in the end the one that mattered most was by Ghazvinian.

Following his well-deserved victory, the new champion was congratulated by several fellow players and staff. Ghazvinian has been a regular at The Bike for many years. He mostly plays in cash games. However, he does play an occasional tournament, and this victory should inspire him to try even more.

“For me the thing to win is the gold bracelet,” Ghazvinian said afterward. “I am happy about this win here, but it's really my dream to win the bracelet in Las Vegas. I hope that is next for me.”

Perhaps most impressive about the latest champion's performance is that it came just a few days after a previous final table appearance. Presently, Ghazvinian is the only player at this series with two final table appearances. He holds a strong point lead in the Casino Champion race and will be the player to catch as this tournament series enters its second half of events.

The \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament was played over two consecutive days. The total prize pool amounted to \$59,400, with the top 21 finishers collecting prize money. Ghazvinian won \$15,440 for first place, plus the coveted WSOP Circuit gold ring.

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

1. Amir Ghazvinian – \$15,440 (Reseda, CA)
2. Oscar Zavala – \$9,540 (Bakersfield, CA)
3. Stephen Elliott – \$6,890 (Tri-Cities, WA)
4. Nathan Brady – \$5,060 (Chino, CA)
5. George Mosher – \$3,780 (Riverside, CA)
6. Hung Bui – \$2,870 (Irvine, CA)
7. Cludo Georgiadis – \$2,220 (Valley Village, CA)
8. Trevor Deeter – \$1,740 (Philadelphia, PA)
9. Daku Ogawa – \$1,390 (Los Angeles, CA)

Tournament Notes

- This was the fourth event of this year's WSOP Circuit being held at The Bicycle Casino. With the completion of this tournament, one-third of the schedule is finished.
- Day One began with 198 starters for the noon start. By the end of 13 hours of play at 9 am, only ten remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another half-hour before the final table session began.
- The runner up was Oscar Zavala, from Bakersfield, CA. He was one card away from victory a few times, but failed to close the victory.
- The final table included no previous gold ring winners, which guaranteed a first-time champion.
- The final table went about nine hours, considerably longer than the average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events.

As the fourth gold ring winner, Ghazvinian takes the lead in the Casino Champion race for The Bicycle Casino series. He has accumulated 72.5 points so far at The Bike, which leads three other players with 50 points each.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in The Bike'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 (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 The Bike 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 14th, 2013.

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