



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
The Bicycle Casino  
Bell Gardens, CA  
Event #5  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In \$500 (+80)  
Total Entries: 157  
Prize Pool: \$78,500  
January 8-9, 2013**

## **Nathan Bjerno Wins First Gold Ring**

### **In Just Second WSOP Circuit Tourney Ever, California Poker Pro Wins Coveted Prize**

### **Latest Champ Wipes Out Final Table Quickly – 2.5 Hour Finale**

**Bell Gardens, CA (January 9, 2013)** – Nathan Bjerno doesn't play any WSOP Circuit tournament. But when he does, he wins gold rings.

Bjerno just won his first WSOP Circuit victory, in Event 5 at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles. He collected \$21,180 in prize money, plus the coveted WSOP Circuit jewelry. This was only his second WSOP Circuit tournament entry.

Bjerno defeated a field totaling 157 players, who each posted the \$580 entry fee. He was by no means dominant until the final stages of the tournament, when he wiped away his final opponents in lightning-fast time.

Indeed, it took a little more than two and a half hours for Bjerno to prevail at the final table. Even though he knocked out few opponents until the very end, Bjerno was the beneficiary of a couple of key hands that kept him out of the danger zone. He made a full house on his final hand, which guaranteed the victory. Zachary Fahmie finished as the runner-up.

Bjerno is a semi-professional poker player. He plays part time, but does take the game very seriously. Prior to the events of Black Friday, Bjerno was mostly an online player. Now, he plays some live games and perhaps only two to three tournaments each month. Last year, Bjerno enjoyed a big break when he won six figures in a major tournament held in Los Angeles. He's kept most of that money, due largely to a patient approach to the game and a great amount of personal discipline.

Bjerno, age 24, is originally from Hamilton, Ontario (Canada). He now resides in Corona, CA. Bjerno admits that he's not sure what direction he'll go in life. He says poker is working out well, but, at the same time, has no illusions that life as a professional poker player is either

automatic or easy. To the contrary. Bjerno seems content to take everything one day at a time. And this was a very good day.

This tournament produced one of the more interesting finales of the series. The final table included an eclectic mix of players. Two golf professionals, three Canadians, and two females made up the motely crew. All that was missing was a partridge in a pear tree.

Just one previous gold ring winner made it to the final table – Alex Bylicki. He ended up finishing fourth.

John Coon, who won this same event last year made a deep run. He went out in tenth place, just one spot off of the official final table.

Also among the notable players who cashed was gold bracelet winner Ylon Schwartz, from Austin, TX. He won his first bracelet at last year's WSOP. Schwartz broke onto the big-time poker scene in 2008 when he finished fourth in the Main Event Championship.

The final table finishers were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Nathan Bjerno -- \$21,180 (Corona, CA)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Zachary Fahmie -- \$13,100 (Las Vegas, NV)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jason Tulloss -- \$9,430 (Arlington Heights, IL)
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Alex Bylicki -- \$6,910 (Vancouver, BC)
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Lily Newhouse -- \$5,155 (Middletown, PA)
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Thomas Beckstead -- \$3,910 (Temecula, CA)
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Clark McKay -- \$3,020 (Prince Albert, SK)
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Damien Leforbes -- \$2,370 (Bellflower, CA)
- 9<sup>th</sup>: Justine Rodgers -- \$1,890 (Richland, WA)

### **Tournament Notes**

- This was the fifth event of this year's WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino.
- Day One began with 157 starters for the noon start. By the end of 14 hours of play at 2am, only ten remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another half-hour before the final table session began.
- The runner up was Zachary Fahmie, from Las Vegas.
- The final table included just one previous gold ring winner – Alex Bylicki. He ended up finishing fourth.
- The final table included three players born in Canada.

- The final table included two professional golfers.
- The final table included two females.
- The final table went about 2.5 hours, considerably shorter than the average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events (6-8 hours).

The fifth gold ring winner, Nathan Bjerno is now in contention for the Casino Champion race for The Bicycle Casino series. He has accumulated 50 points so far at The Bike, and 50 points overall this season.

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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