



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Bicycle Casino
Bell Gardens, CA
Event #7
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$1,000 (+125)
Total Entries: 157
Prize Pool: \$157,000
January 10-11, 2013**

Ray Henson Wins First Gold Ring

High-Stakes Poker Pro from Houston Pockets \$42,390

Bell Gardens, CA (January 11, 2013) – Ray Henson won his first gold ring tonight at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles. He pocketed \$42,390 in prize money and jumped into serious contention in the Casino Champion race for the Bike's tournament series.

But Henson treated the victory pretty much as just another day at the office. Indeed, the 34-year-old poker pro from Houston typically plays in the most competitive tournaments in the world with buy-ins ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. He admittedly doesn't play in many WSOP Circuit events, except championship-level tourneys. But after making a nice score and taking a giant leap forward in potentially qualifying for a seat in the WSOP National Championship, perhaps Henson can now be persuaded to play in more gold ring events.

If so, that won't be a popular decision with his rivals on the tournament circuit. That's one more tough obstacle to victory.

Among those in the 157-player field who felt Henson's wrath was eventual runner up Everett Carlton, himself a gold ring winner from three seasons ago. The final hand of the tournament saw Henson win a coin flip against Carlton for all the chips – the new champion's A-K against Carlton's pocket sixes. An ace on the flop was the fateful card which decided the outcome.

Henson won his victory on a historical day for the WSOP Circuit. Three gold rings were awarded in LA this Friday night, the most notable going to Alexandru Masek for his record-setting sixth career victory –which took place at another table just a few steps away.

However, Henson's final table was undoubtedly the toughest given the lineup. In addition to longtime veteran and gold ring winner Carlton, Henson defeated online pro at DeepStacks instructor Jason Lee and Harveys Lake Tahoe Main Event runner-up Derrick Yamada.

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

- 1st: Raymond Henson (Houston, TX) – \$42,390.00
- 2nd: Everett Carlton (St. Paul, MN) – \$26,195.00
- 3rd: Jason Lee (Miami, FL) – \$18,855.00
- 4th: Derrick Yamada (Sacramento, CA) – \$13,820
- 5th: Shawn Daniels (Placerville, CA) -- \$10,310
- 6th: Simon Samano (Gonzales, CA) -- \$7,825
- 7th: Michael Nia (Calabasas, CA) -- \$6,040
- 8th: Pogos Simityan (Glendale, CA) -- \$4,735
- 9th: Mack Lee (Los Angeles, CA) -- \$3,775

Tournament Notes

This was the seventh 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 gold ring winner Everett Carlton (Caesars Palace Las Vegas – 2010).

The final table went about seven hours, which is about the average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events.

The seventh gold ring winner, Ray Henson is now in contention for the Casino Champion race for The Bicycle Casino series. He has accumulated 50 points so far at The Bike.

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 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.

.....

For more information on the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at @WSOP or check us out on WSOP.com.

For additional information, please contact:
Nolan Dalla (WSOP Media Director) at: nolandalla@gmail.com