



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
The Bicycle Casino  
Bell Gardens, CA  
Event #9  
Turbo No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In \$365  
Total Entries: 212  
Prize Pool: \$63,600  
January 11, 2013**

## **Alexandru Masek in a Class All His Own**

### **WSOP Circuit Crowns a New King**

Bell Gardens, CA (January, 12, 2013) -- Friday night at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles was one of the most memorable of the 2012-2013 season as three gold ring events wrapped up, including a record smashing victory by the new king of the WSOP Circuit -- Alexandru Masek.

In the biggest news of the Bike's tournament series, the 25-year-old law student turned poker pro won his sixth career victory in the \$365 buy-in Turbo No-Limit Hold'em tourney (Event 9). He overcame a field of 212 entrants and defeated actor and voiceover specialist Bill Fagerbakke in heads-up play. Masek won \$15,905 in prize money, but the amount in dollars won wasn't the big news of the day.

Masek has roared into the record books the last two months, having won two gold rings at the last two WSOP Circuit stops. He won his fifth victory in December at Harrah's Rincon. Nearly one month later to the day, Masek came north and won gold ring number six at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles.

After being "the man" on the WSOP Circuit for the past three seasons, five-time champ Mark "Pegasus" Smith now has some serious work to do. He's been the reigning champion for the past three seasons. The other record-sharer was Kyle Cartwright, who won his fifth title earlier this season back in August.

Masek has plans to play more tournament poker, and potentially win more. He's likely visit at least three more WSOP Circuit stops this season, which will undoubtedly keep pressure on his rivals and others who seek the climb to the mountaintop.

But even those in Masek's company praised the milestone. When informed of the breaking news that Masek had just won his record-breaking sixth WSOP Circuit gold bracelet, Smith – the retired Kentucky-based tournament veteran with five victories of his own – had a few compliments that were highly complementary towards his younger rival.

"My heartfelt congratulations! Wear that crown proudly," Smith said. "You earned it! Now, I've got something to shoot at."

This one-day Turbo No-Limit Hold'em tournament started at noon on Friday. It ended about 1am in front of a packed rail, cheering equally for Masek and one of the more popular poker-playing actors in Hollywood.

Actor Bill Fagerbakke, who finished second, is probably best known as the voice of Patrick Star in the SpongeBob SquarePants series. He was also a cast member on the popular television show Coach. Standing at 6-6, the former college football player has appeared in numerous films over the course of his career, including The Secret of My Success, Funny Farm, Beethoven, Steven King's The Stand, Batman Beyond, Halloween II, The Artist, Weeds (TV), and many others.

This victory also puts Masek in the running for the Casino Champion race here at the Bike. He will almost assuredly earn a seat in the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof at season's end via an at-large bid. Nevertheless, Masek is taking no chances. He plans on coming back to The Bike on Saturday to play in the first session of the Main Event Championship.

With this achievement, Masek now has six wins, 11 final table appearances, 46 cashes, and nearly \$300,000 in WSOP-related earnings.

The final table finishers were as follows:

1. Alexandru Masek – \$15,905
2. William Fagerbakke – \$9,825
3. Jason Tulloss – \$7,150
4. Keith Rogers – \$5,290
5. Brian Gorman – \$3,975
6. Jose Franco – \$3,030
7. Jim Hoff – \$2,345
8. William Leffingwell – \$1,845
9. Anselmo Villarreal – \$1,470

### **Tournament Notes**

- This was the ninth event of this year's WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino.
- This was a one-day Turbo-structured tournament that began with 212 entrants. Play concluded after about 14 hours.
- Larry Siegel finished as the runner-up. This marked his first time to cash in a WSOP-related event.

- The final table included two previous gold ring winners – Alexandru Masek and Anselmo Villareal.

- The final table went about three hours, shorter than average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events, largely because of the accelerated Turbo structure.

As the ninth gold ring winner, Masek is now in contention for the Casino Champion race for The Bicycle Casino series. He's also in great position to earn what could be an at-large bid into the season-ending finale.

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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