



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
Harrah's Cherokee  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Event #9  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In \$500 (+80)  
Total Entries: 423  
Prize Pool: \$211,500  
April 11-12, 2013**

### **State Farm Insurance Agent in Good Hands**

### **Jimmy Kelly Wins Ninth Event at Harrah's Cherokee**

### **North Carolina's First-Ever WSOP Circuit Stop Enters Final Weekend**

**Cherokee, NC (April 12, 2013)** – Jimmy Kelly won the latest WSOP Circuit gold ring event at Harrah's Cherokee. He topped a 423-player field in the \$580 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament en route to his first major poker victory.

Kelly is a 28-year-old insurance agent from Knoxville, TN. He's a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, where he played college baseball. Kelly plays poker part-time, concentrating mostly on cash games. His best previous showing had been a fourth-place finish at the Gold Strike in Tunica, MS as part of their Winter Poker Classic series.

The tournament was played over a two-day span and drew a nice turnout, considering this was the highest buy-in on the schedule, other than the Main Event. All other events are \$365 buy-in tournaments. The boosted entry fee made the top prize into a nice figure for Kelly. He earned \$46,533 for the victory.

Juan Mendoza finished as the runner-up. This was his second final table appearance at this series. In fact, with the second-place showing, Mendoza is now tied in points with Dave Moursdof for the Casino Champion lead.

The tournament generated a prize pool totaling \$211,500. The top 45 finishers collected prize money. The final table finishers were as follows:

1st	Jimmy Kelly	Knoxville, TN	\$46,533
2nd	Juan Mendoza	Boone, NC	\$28,753
3rd	Ronnie Taylor	Fayetteville, GA	\$21,010
4th	Matthew Lankford	Winter Haven, FL	\$15,600
5th	Josh Palmer	Daphne, AL	\$11,764
6th	James Mcauley	Matthews, NC	\$9,004

7th	Steve Gill	Fountain Inn, SC	\$6,992
8th	Jennifer Germany	Stockbridge, GA	\$5,507
9th	Joshua Smith	Newark, DE	\$4,399

**Tournament Notes**

- This was the largest buy-in (at \$580) of any event so far. All other events were \$365 buy-in tournaments.
- The two-day tournament began with 423 players – a strong number given the higher buy-in. After 14 hours of play on Day One, 23 survivors remained.
- There were 23 players that started Day Two. It took about three hours to play down to the final table of nine.
- The final table included two gold ring winners – Josh Smith and Steve Gill.
- The final table lasted about seven hours and ended at 11:30 pm.

Jimmy Kelly picked up 50 player points for his victory. The top 45 finishers all received points.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Harrah's Cherokee'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 (April 12-15), 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 Harrah's Cherokee gold ring 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 Harrah's Cherokee runs through April 15, 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](mailto:nolandalla@gmail.com)