

**2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Lodge Casino
Black Hawk, CO
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 215
Prize Pool: \$64,500
March 20-21, 2013**



Ray Henson Nabs his Second Ring of 2013

Two potential Casino Championship points leaders hit the rail; Henson's overall points total climbs to 130.

Black Hawk, Colo. (March 22, 2013) — The Event 8 final table at The Lodge Casino Thursday night included the likes of Ray Henson, Jonathan Hilton, Ryan Riess, Craig Crivello and Jeff Bryan. Together, this bunch accounts for more than \$2.2 million in career earnings at the WSOP.

On top of that, the finale also held serious Casino Championship implications. Joshua Kieval, who finished fifth in Event 5, needed a second-place finish to tie Krzysztof Stybaniewicz atop the leaderboard and a victory to take sole possession of the lead. Additionally, Kelley Wilson had a chance to take top honors from Stybaniewicz with a win.

Kieval exited the tournament seventh and from then on the final table was all Wilson all the time.

That is, until he got to Henson.

Kelley steamrolled the final table and found himself heads-up holding a 4-to-1 chip lead over Henson poised for the Casino Champion's lead. The pair played a pivotal hand when Henson flopped a flush versus the top-pair of Kelley and all the chips went in the middle. Henson's hand held and he picked away at Kelley's stack until it was no more, giving Henson the victory.

He was awarded \$16,128 and his second WSOP Circuit gold ring of 2013. More importantly for the 35-year-old Houston-based pro, he earned 50 points toward the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof.

"[The win] feels good," Henson said. "It should give me enough points to get into the National Championship, which was my goal the whole time. After winning my first ring I was like, 'I need to start playing more'. I guess I can win these rings."

Henson is a pro's pro who's focused on providing for his family and less on the awards and accolades that come with tournament success. After his first ring victory at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles earlier this year, he not only realized the value in qualifying for the National Championship, he realized how close he was. Thursday's win brings his point total to 130.

Henson made the trip to The Lodge Casino for the sole reason of earning points, but when he arrived, his eyes were opened to all the area has to offer.

“I love it here,” Henson said of Black Hawk and The Lodge Casino. “Where else can you go that you get this view while you’re playing poker? The mountains, the snow, everything. I love it here. The people are awesome, the players are really nice. I was talking to the floor guys and told them I’m coming back to play cash games. It’s beautiful here.”

Henson resides in Houston and is the father of three children. He says whenever he isn’t playing poker he can be found with his kids, at the beach or with his friends.

His most recent championship came on the eve of the Main Event at The Lodge casino, which begins Friday at 11 a.m. with the first of three flights.

Event 8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at The Lodge Casino. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em event attracted 215 entries. The total prize pool came to \$64,500 and the top 24 players were paid.

Day 1 began Wednesday at 11 a.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Thursday at 3 p.m. with 10 players remaining. The nine-handed final table started at 3:10 p.m. Play finished at about 7:30 making the total duration of the final table four hours and 20 minutes.

Notes on the Event

- Joshua Kieval needed a second-place finish to tie the Casino Championship points lead and a first-place finish to take sole possession. He finished seventh.
- Kelley Wilson needed a win and a win only to take the Casino Championship points lead. He began the heads-up duel with a 4-to-1 chip advantage, but finished second.
- The victory brings Henson’s overall points total to 130.
- Jonathan Hilton finished sixth and now has four WSOP-related cashes all coming in final table appearances. His career earnings exceed \$450,000.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during The Lodge Casino’s twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion’s race and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from The Lodge Casino:

EVENT #1: Bryan Campanello defeated 301 players (\$365 NLH) for \$21,223

EVENT #2: Jonathan Alfonso defeated 272 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,586

EVENT #3: Mitch Schock defeated 516 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$33,284

EVENT #4: Ryan Lenaghan defeated 219 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,426

EVENT #5: Chris Parsons defeated 188 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,661

EVENT #6: Eric Varnado defeated 148 players (\$365 Limit O8) for \$12,434

EVENT #7: Jason Tulloss defeated 196 players (\$365 NLH) for \$15,289

EVENT #8: Ray Henson defeated 215 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,128

With the eighth tournament wrapped, four more ring events remain at The Lodge Casino. For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com. For additional information please contact:

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lukasmwillems@gmail.com.