

**2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
The Lodge Casino  
Black Hawk, CO  
Event #9  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)  
Total Entries: 187  
Prize Pool: \$93,500  
March 21-22, 2013**



## **Michael Sanders Breaks Through in Event 9**

**28-year-old pro avenges three runner-up finishes with his first gold ring victory.**

**Black Hawk, Colo. (March 23, 2013)** — Michael Sanders' good friend Michael "Car Wash" Schneider said it best after the last river card hit the felt in Event 9 Friday night at The Lodge Casino.

"No one deserves this ring more than [Sanders]."

And maybe that's true.

Sanders has been playing poker professionally for almost 10 years. In that time he's amassed 12 WSOP Circuit cashes including seven final tables, three of which came in the form of runner-up finishes. Sanders, who's close friends with three-time WSOP Circuit champions David Nicholson and La Sengphet among many other accomplished Circuit grinders, had 'been there' but was yet 'to do that'.

"They mess with me all the time," Sanders said of his friends with rings. "My girl made an \$1,100 final table in Joplin, [Mo.] and everyone was like, 'Hey, show him how to close one out'."

If you haven't figured it out by now, Sanders closed one out by winning Event 9, a \$580 No-Limit Hold'em tournament. The victory awarded the previously ring-less pro a gold ring and \$24,312 in prize money. If that wasn't enough, he all but punched his ticket to the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof with a point total that now tops out at 145.

And the best part? That had to be the sincere happiness for Sanders that could be seen on each one his friends' faces who previously ribbed him for not having a ring.

"I had a bunch of homies here. The setting was perfect," Sanders said. "They actually care. We care about each other. We're always rooting for each other. It's like a family."

Sanders gold-ring dry spell was among the headlines when the Event 9 final table started, but it wasn't the only headline. Chris Parsons, who by making the final table secured a 15-point score, brought his total points earned at The Lodge Casino to 65 points, 2.5 ahead of the then-leader

Krzysztof Stybaniewicz -- but there was one scenario Parsons had to fade. If Wayne Steinhall finished first and Parsons finished outside of the top three, Steinhall would nab the lead from the newly-anointed lead horse.

With Steinhall's seventh-place finish, Parsons could breathe a sigh of relief knowing he holds the lead in the Casino Championship, at least until the next three gold ring events conclude Monday.

Parsons and Sanders have had an ultra-successful series thus far, but being the consummate pros they are, both were found in Flight 1B of the \$1,675 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event as soon as they busted Event 9.

The Main Event is running now and live updates can be found on WSOP.com.

Event 9 was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at The Lodge Casino. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em event attracted 187 entries. The total prize pool came to \$93,500 and the top 21 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 11 a.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 3 p.m. with 14 players remaining. The nine-handed final table started at about 4 p.m. Play finished at about 9:15 p.m. making the total duration of the final table five hours and 15 minutes.

### **Notes on the Event**

- Wayne Steinwall began the final table with 30 points toward the Casino Championship. He needed to win Event 9 and have Parsons finish outside the top three in order to take the points lead. Steinwall finished seventh.
- The Event 9 final table featured two players making their second final table appearance at The Lodge Casino; Chris Parsons and Wayne Steinwall.

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  
EVENT #9: Michael Sanders defeated 187 players (\$580 NLH) for \$24,312

With the ninth tournament wrapped, three 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:

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