

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Foxwoods Resort Casino

Main Event – Event #10

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$1,550 (+125)

Total Entries: 591

Total Prize Pool: \$888,568

August 17-19, 2013

TOURNAMENT REPORT

Jason Strasser Wins Foxwoods Resort Casino's WSOP Circuit Main Event Championship

Online pro turned investment banker Jason Strasser finds time to win the ring.

Mashantucket, CT (August 19, 2013) – These days it seems like we hear a lot about players who have left the poker world for the bright lights and big city. Jason Strasser is no exception. Like November Niner David Benefield, Strasser gave up full time poker play to pursue a career in finance in New York City. Like Benefield though, the 28-year-old still finds time for poker. The hobby proved to be a profitable one for Strasser, as he won the first Circuit Main Event of the season, taking down the Foxwoods title for \$186,600.

"I played a ton of poker back in my younger days." Strasser commented after his victory. "This game has been really good to me but it hasn't been a big part of my life for the past five years."

Strasser defeated a field of 591 entries to earn the win, the ring, and the first automatic bid into the 2014 WSOP National Championship. The road was not an easy one for Strasser either. At a final table with some top regional talent like Bryan Leskowitz and Joseph Morneau, Strasser was up against tough competition, plus he had to battle back from a short stack.

At one point during final table action, Strasser was down to less than ten big blinds. He found some good spots to pick up chips though and his patience, combined with a couple of lucky cards, helped to put him right back in the thick of things.

The tournament came down to Strasser and start of day chip leader Wes Wyvill, who entered at the last possible minute on Day 2, built up a massive stack, and put those chips to dominant use over the course of final table action. At one point, Wyvill even had Strasser down 2-1 heads-up, but Strasser rallied and ended up in the winner's circle.

"Everyone has gotten amazing in poker in the last five years." Strasser said about the competition he faced. "They're so much better than I am at this point."

Strasser will be heading to the National Championship, but one player who failed to lock up his seat today was John Ting, who came into the day with one of the bigger stacks and a more than decent shot at the Casino Champion title. With 11 players returning, Ting needed

to outlast two players and make the final table to surpass Ryan Methia on the Casino Champion leaderboard. Instead, Ting made an early exit in 11th place.

Joe Morneau continued his productive 2013 by following up his Little One for One Drop final table appearance in Vegas this summer with a third place finish here. The top 63 finishers in this tournament each earned a piece of the \$888,568 prize pool. Some of the notables who cashed in this tournament include Randal Sklar (49th), Grant Lang (24th), bracelet winner Leo Wolpert (18th), and Raj Patel (13th).

The Circuit now takes a couple weeks off before the action resumes at IP Biloxi on September 5th.

The Main Event (officially listed as Event #10) was a three-day \$1,550 (+125) No-Limit Hold'em tournament, which attracted 591 entrants. This was the first Main Event of the WSOP Circuit season.

Play began on Saturday at 11am and concluded on Monday night. The total prize pool came to \$888,568. The top 63 finishers made the money. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points – used to potentially qualify for a seat in the season-ending championship, to be played in Atlantic City.

Some of the notables who cashed included gold bracelet winner Leo Wolpert (18th) and two-time Circuit Ring winner Aaron Massey (29th). A full list of all players who cashed in Event #10 can be seen at WSOP.COM

Here are the starting chip counts and seat assignments for the final table:

Seat 1: Jason Strasser – 717,000
Seat 2: Frank Pezzullo – 662,000
Seat 3: Joe Morneau – 3,983,000
Seat 4: Bryan Leskowitz – 757,000
Seat 5: Mike Guadano – 1,289,000
Seat 6: Keith Donoan – 744,000
Seat 7: Scott Baker – 3,194,000
Seat 8: Wes Wyvill – 2,772,000
Seat 9: James Rubin – 462,000

The final table featured no previous WSOP Circuit ring winners, but did include two WSOP final tablists, Joe Morneau and eventual winner Jason Strasser.

About the Final Table:

1st: Jason Strasser - \$186,600
Hometown: New York City, NY
Age: 28
Occupation: Finance

Circuit Earnings: \$0, but \$221,776 in WSOP earnings

2nd: Wes Wyvill - \$115,069

Hometown: Dublin, MD

Age: 30

Occupation: Poker Pro

Circuit Earnings: \$0

3rd: Joe Morneau - \$84,414

Hometown: Candia, NH

Age: 43

Occupation: Poker Pro

Circuit Earnings: \$4,638, \$307,605 in WSOP earnings

4th: Bryan Leskowitz - \$62,555

Hometown: Leominster, MA

Age: 29

Occupation: Poker Pro

Circuit Earnings: \$790

5th: Mike Guadano - \$47,095

Hometown: New York City, NY

Age: 30

Occupation: Options Trader

Circuit Earnings: \$0

6th: James Rubin - \$35,898

Hometown: Jericho, VT

Age: 42

Occupation: Attorney

Circuit Earnings:

7th: Scott Baker - \$27,545

Hometown: Harwichport, MA

Age: 47

Occupation: Wealth Strategist

Circuit Earnings: \$0

8th: Keith Donovan - \$21,770

Hometown: New Milford, CT

Age: 24

Occupation: Poker Pro

Circuit Earnings: \$2,422

9th: Frank Pezzullo - \$17,357

Hometown: Pelham, NY

Age: 28

Occupation: Sales for New York Health and Racquet Club

Circuit Earnings: \$0

Additional Notes on the Event:

-Runner-up Wes Wyvill was one of five players who bought in at the start of Day 2 of play. Despite beginning with a short stack, he managed to bank a six-figure score in this event.

-Winner Jason Strasser is the latest “retired” online poker pro to win big at a WSOP event.

-At one point during final table play Strasser was down to 400,000 and less than ten big blinds.

-John Ting advanced to the third day of play and had a serious shot at earning the Casino Champion title in Foxwoods. He needed to make the final table in order to take the lead in the contest, but busted out in 11th place.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Foxwoods, so far:

- EVENT #1: John Ting defeated 641 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$39,514
- EVENT #2: Fabio D’Agata defeated 116 players (\$1,125 NLHE) for \$34,938
- EVENT #3: Eric Judge defeated 137 players (\$365 O8B) for \$11,535
- EVENT #4: Ketan Patel defeated 578 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$36,500
- EVENT #5: James Campbell defeated 449 players (\$580 NLHE Re-entry) for \$49,825
- EVENT #6: Ryan Methia defeated 276 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$19,919
- EVENT #7: Grant Lang defeated 155 players (\$580 Six-Max) for \$31,891
- EVENT #8: John Glasspool defeated 325 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$22,966
- EVENT #9: Ari Engel defeated 235 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$29,634
- EVENT #10: Jason Strasser defeated 591 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$186,600

Coming next, the WSOP Circuit is off to Biloxi, Mississippi – which runs its tournament series from September 5-16, 2013.