2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 10
Harrah's Resort
Atlantic City, NJ
Event #4
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: $300 (+$65)
Total Entries: 388
Prize Pool: $116,400
December 3-4, 2013

Paul Avilla Emerges as Unlikely Victor

WSOP's newest winner transforms a less-than-one-big-blind stack into $25K.

Atlantic City, NJ (December 4, 2013) — Paul Avilla found himself alone at the feature table Wednesday night at Harrah's Resort. Each of the eight seats around him were once filled by dreamers hoping to turn their umpteen-big-blind stacks into a gold ring. Hours later though, Avilla was all by himself.

The Westport, MA resident was the last man standing of the 388-player starting field in Event 4 a $365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament. He earned $25,605, a Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

As Avilla sat there behind his mountain of chips and a shiny gold ring, bearing his teeth for the camera he couldn't help but think back to the previous day's play.

"I had 400 chips yesterday afternoon," he remembered. "I didn't even have a small blind. I had an ante and 300 chips. I was in blind and ended up with 1,800 chips out of the deal."

While no one would claim to be comfortable with less than a big blind in front of them, Avilla fancies himself a short stack ninja of sorts. Exhibit A of this was the heads-up duel against William Krooss-Tadas.

Based on chip stacks alone, Avilla was certainly an underdog. Krooss-Tadas seemed to be playing with a sort of recklessness, but every time it came to showdown, he had it. No doubt Avilla had a tough test in front of him.

"I don't usually have a huge amount of chips," Avilla said. "I tend to play conservatively. I'm used to being at a chip disadvantage."

In true ninja form, Avilla picked his spot and doubled off Krooss-Tadas before closing the book on his first gold ring victory. The second-place finish marked Krooss-Tadas' second final table of 2013/2014 and awarded him $15,825.

The win marks Avilla's second career in-the-money finish at Harrah's Atlantic City. His first came in the form of a third-place finish in a $350 event in 2010.