

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Harrah's Rincon

Valley Center, CA

Event #1

No Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$365

Total Entries: 221

Prize Pool: \$66,300

December 5-6, 2013



Drew Merrick Gets First Tournament Win At Harrah's Rincon

Gutter Guy Beats Gill, Gets Gold

Valley Center, CA (December 6, 2013) — "Poker is just a hobby" for Drew Merrick, who owns Aquatech Rain Gutters. Today he turned his hobby into \$16,576 with his first-ever tournament win in Event 1, \$365 No Limit Hold'em. He also picked up a shiny gold WSOP Circuit ring for his efforts.

Paramjit Gill finished second, earning \$10,245. This is Gill's *third* second-place finish in a WSOP Circuit event. His two other near misses were in Tahoe in 2005 and here at Rincon playing HORSE in 2009. In addition, he finished 78th in the 2006 WSOP Main Event, earning \$65,973. He was by far the most accomplished player at this final table.

Third place and \$7,456 went to Neal Houska, who is a video editor for Fox Sports in Los Angeles. He was in the middle of the pack with a below average stack at the start of the final table, but played solid and moved up during the day. Houska was eventually taken out by Drew Merrick, whose pocket Queens held up against Houska's AT.

Merrick commented that playing with Gill was "fun...he was a good sport". Gill started heads-up with a 2:1 chip lead, but Merrick got the big hands when it counted. Pocket Queens got Merrick his first big double up, bringing them close to even. Then pocket Kings got him the double up that left Gill with a single 5,000 chip -- the amount of the ante. Three hands later it was over.

The first of twelve gold ring events, a \$365 No Limit Hold'em tournament, drew 221 entries generating a prize pool of \$66,300. The final 24 players earned a payday. [Full results are available on WSOP.com.](http://www.wsop.com)

Day 1 began Thursday at 12 pm PDT and consumed 21 levels (until about 2:20 am). Day 2 started Friday at 2 pm with the official nine-handed final table. The last hand played out at about 7:30 pm, five and a half hours after the final table began.

Drew Merrick taught himself to play the game by reading lots of books. Dan Harrington's Hold'em books are some of his favorites. He also likes Daniel Negreanu's 'small ball' approach, "but you have to have chips to play that style" he says. The 35-year-old is self-employed and is married with two small children. That doesn't leave a lot of time for poker, but he plays cash games and tournaments when he can.

