

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 958

Prize Pool: \$500,000

July 30-August 3, 2014



Avery Bass Wins Circuit Season Opener

Bass bests 958 at the Palm Beach Kennel Club to claim \$95,000 first prize and the season's first Circuit gold ring.

Defending Palm Beach re-entry champion Maurice Hawkins makes deep run but comes up shy of follow-up title, finishes fourth.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (August 3, 2014) — The Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach, Fla. kicked off the 2014/2015 Circuit season last Wednesday with the first of five flights in the season-opening event, a \$580 re-entry tournament. The tournament attracted some of the South's top poker brass and saw headliners like defending re-entry winner Maurice Hawkins and 2006 WSOP Main Event champion Jamie Gold rise to the occasion. In the end though, the spotlight belonged to Florida's Avery Bass who outlasted the 958-entry field to earn a \$95,000 first prize, 50 points toward the Casino Championship, and of course, his first Circuit ring.

"It feels great, man," a stunned Bass said after his win.

The stars began aligning for the 34-year-old amateur on Day 1 when he hit running cards to give him a flush and keep his hopes alive in the event. Fast-forward to Day 2 and he'd parlayed his unlikely river card into a heads-up berth and found himself staring down at pocket nines. The board read [ks][kc][3s] and Bass lead into Brian Locklear. Locklear, who held [kd][tc] for trips, raised to 1,500,000 and Bass instantly moved all-in. Locklear announced "call" and proudly tabled his hand leaving Bass scratching his head.

"I thought it was over. I thought that was it," Bass remembered.

As luck would have it, the dealer revealed the [9h] on the river, one of just two remaining cards Bass could hit to make a fullhouse and stay alive. The pot left Locklear with barely 500,000 chips and all but won the tournament for Bass.

In addition to Locklear, Bass bested a difficult field that included the aforementioned Gold who made his presence known before ultimately finishing 17th. One opponent that proved to not be so easy a task, though, was Hawkins. Hawkins bagged a top 10 stack on Day 1 and kept his hot streak going all the way to the final table.

