

## 2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

### Season 11

**Palm Beach Kennel Club**

**West Palm Beach, Fla.**

**Event #6**

**No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed**

**Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)**

**Total Entries: 145**

**Prize Pool: \$43,500**

**August 5-6, 2014**



## No More Monkey on Juan Mendoza's Back

**Three-time Circuit runner up breaks through in his fourth attempt, earns \$12,398 and first ring in \$365 six-handed event.**

**Back-to-back Harrah's Cherokee Casino Champion takes the lead in the Palm Beach Kennel Club race.**

**West Palm Beach, Fla. (August 6, 2014)** — Juan Mendoza silenced the critics Wednesday afternoon at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in Event 6, a \$365 six-handed ring event. The 27-year-old North Carolina pro bested 145 entries to earn \$12,398, take the lead in the Casino Championship through six events and don his first Circuit gold ring.

For Mendoza, the victory was a long time coming. During last year's tour he became the first player to win back-to-back Casino Championships at a property – a feat he accomplished at Harrah's Cherokee. Unfortunately for him, he earned his points in the form of two runner ups, a sixth-place finish and a handful of deep runs sending him home with no gold two years in a row.

From there, the second-place finishes followed him to the 2014/2015 season and the PBKC. He kicked off the season's first stop with a deep run in Event 2, but alas, fell one place short as he saw Claudangelo Beaudouin claim the ring he so desperately wanted.

Little did Mendoza know, he'd get another shot just a few days later.

He made his way through field in the aforementioned six-handed event, secured his seat for Day 2 and eventual found himself heads-up against Edward LeBlanc. Despite a severe chip disadvantage, this time would be different for Mendoza. He doubled with aces and then again with 10s before hitting runner-runner straight cards against LeBlanc's top pair to officially snag his first ring.

"I was hoping [I would win a ring] sometime soon and I did," Mendoza said. "I've been very lucky. I ran very, very well this tournament... [LeBlanc flopped] a king and I [hit] a runner-runner straight with pocket 10s. I definitely ran real well."

Despite past close calls and the disappointment that followed, Mendoza insists he remained motivated throughout. What he appreciates about the Circuit is whether you're in search of

