

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Foxwoods Resort Casino

Event #7

Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$580

Total Entries: 148

Total Prize Pool: \$74,651

August 19-20, 2014

Jesse Mercado Wins Over \$20,000 at WSOP Circuit at Foxwoods

Mercado Overcomes Substantial Chip Deficit to Win his First Circuit Ring

Mashantucket, Conn. (August 20, 2014) – Jesse Mercado won the latest event at the World Series of Poker at Foxwoods. Mercado bested a field of 148 players in the \$580 Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em tournament (Event #7) to win his first Circuit ring and over \$20,000.

Mercado entered the final table with a short stack, and he was in 5th place of the remaining six players. He was on the losing end of the final hand of Day 1, when he held pocket queens against Dena Pearlman's Ace-10 and William Miller's Ace-King. A King fell on the turn, busting Pearlman in 7th place (\$2,657), and taking a substantial bite out of Mercado's stack.

Yet in only about two and a half hours, he was playing heads up for the ring against Nick Palma. Palma had had the opposite experience near the end of Day 1. He spent the last few hours building his stack, and he started the final table at the beginning of Day 2 with almost half the chips in play. When heads-up play started, Palma held a chip lead of almost 2-1. Mercado immediately started chipping away at the lead, though, and pretty soon the stacks were nearly even.

The final hand came after only about 20 minutes of heads-up play, and it was one to remember. All the chips went in the middle on river, and when the hands were tabled, Palma saw the bad news: both players had flopped sets, and Mercado's set of aces crushed Palma's set of fives. All of a sudden, Mercado had all the chips, the first major tournament victory of his career, his first WSOP Circuit ring, and the first-place prize of \$21,276.

Afterward, Mercado was still in disbelief about the final hand. "It's crazy," he said. "We both flopped sets. I check, he bets. I check, he bets. I check, he goes all-in. It's the perfect situation."

While that situation may have been perfect, most of the tournament was much more difficult for the eventual winner. "It's been a grind," he said after the tournament. "It wasn't like I had chips most of the time. I was just trying to stay focused. I was always just getting by. Then I finally picked my spots and chipped up."

The tournament was played over two consecutive days, starting on Tuesday. Only six survivors took seats on the second day of action, played on Wednesday. The final playing session began at 1 p.m. local time. Play finished at 4 p.m., making the total duration of the final table about

three hours.

At the conclusion of Event 7, Michael Nye is still the frontrunner in the Foxwoods Casino Champion ranks with 52.5 points. Matt Smith also has 52.5 points, but Nye holds the tie-breaker (money earned). The player who accumulates the most overall points in Foxwoods's twelve gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives an automatic entry into the 2015 WSOP National Championship. The winner of the Foxwoods Main Event earns an automatic entry to the WSOP National Championship as well. All players who cash in ring events will receive points that apply to both the Casino Champion race and the season-long race to claim one of the 50 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

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

EVENT #1: James Watt defeated 588 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$35,235.
EVENT #2: Bassioni Hammouda defeated 143 players (\$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$40,199.
EVENT #3: Bill Delsanto defeated 140 players (\$365 Omaha Hi-Lo Eight-or-Better) for \$11,788.
EVENT #4: Joseph Delgobbo defeated 451 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$29,158.
EVENT #5: William Kopp defeated 352 entries (\$580 No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry) for \$40,836.
EVENT #6: Matt Smith defeated 255 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$18,787.
EVENT #7: Jesse Mercado defeated 148 players (\$365 Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em) for \$18,787.

With the 6th tournament now wrapped up, there are still five more gold ring events before the WSOP Circuit at Foxwoods concludes on August 25.

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