

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

IP Casino Resort and Spa

Biloxi, Miss.

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 125

Prize Pool: \$37,500

September 4-5, 2014



Mark Fink Wins Second Ring in IP Biloxi Opener

The Gulf Coast property hosts 12 gold ring events between now and September 15.

Austin Buchanan finishes third, remains ringless following 26th career cash and 11th final table appearance.

Biloxi, Miss. (September 5, 2014) — Mark Fink kicked off the 2014 IP Casino Resort and Spa Circuit series with a bang Friday night earning his second gold ring in Event 1. The 35-year-old South Dakota resident outlasted 125 players in the \$365 event to claim the \$10,500 first prize and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

“I’ve got quite a few cashes on the Circuit, but [I only had] one ring,” Fink said of his resume. “I didn’t want to be one of those guys. I’m definitely happy to pick up a second one. It gives a little validity to the first one I think.”

When it comes to Fink, ring number two helps solidify a rap sheet that wasn’t in need of solidifying to begin with. Prior to Friday’s victory, the part-time electrical contractor, part-time poker pro had amassed 24 cashes including a gold ring win, 12 final table appearances and more than \$100,000 in earnings. His most recent milestone alters the majority of those numbers only slightly, but adds one to the most important column – gold rings won.

If Fink was on one end of the spectrum Friday night, Austin Buchanan was on the other. Buchanan, a now-26-time Circuit casher and 11-time final tablist, came to the Event 1 finale as the chip leader. He held better than one-third of the total chips in play with nine players remaining and was the odds-on favorite to earn his first gold ring.

“I figured we would get into a big hand at some point,” Fink said of Buchanan. “He was on my immediate left and he was the only guy that had more chips than me. He’s a great player. I was pulling for him to win if I couldn’t, of course.”

Fink wouldn’t be the one to deliver the fatal blow to Buchanan, but he crippled the 26-year-old pro when he got his last 365,000 in holding [ks][kc] against Buchanan’s [ac][qc]. The board ran out no help to either player and Buchanan sent a 750,000-chip pot Fink’s way while he was left with barely 50,000.

