

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, Ind.

Event #12

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 105

Prize Pool: \$31,500

October 12-13, 2014



Neal Harding Wins Last Chance Ring

Series closer concludes with Harding redeeming a previous runner-up finish to earn \$9,450 and his first ring.

Elizabeth, Ind. (October 13, 2014) — Gold ring events have officially concluded at Horseshoe Southern Indiana following Neal Harding's win the series-ending tournament. The victory, which came in a \$365 no-limit hold'em event, earned Harding \$9,450, his first gold ring and redeemed a runner-up finish he carded earlier in the series.

"[It feels] very good," Harding said of the win. "I went in as the chip leader the first time and couldn't hold the lead. I ended up coming in second. I had one other win in a non-numbered tournament [this series], so it was good to get two wins and a second."

The second-place finish Harding is referring to came in Event 5, a \$365 six-handed event. He held a convincing chip lead but succumbed to a talented final table that included 2014 Palm Beach Kennel Club Casino Champion Kristopher Bradshaw, three-time ring winner Stephen Kats and all-time Circuit cashes leader Doug Carli.

As he did in Event 5, Harding had his work cut out for him in Event 12. He faced another talented finale that included 2013 Southern Indiana Main Event champion Zal Irani and perennial Circuit casher Paul Sokoloff, but this time with a different result.

He learned from his previous shortcoming and parlayed a convincing final table chip lead into a gold ring and a fairytale ending to a Circuit series that takes place each year at his home casino.

"I love having [the Circuit] here," Harding, a Louisville resident, said. "I always come down and play it every year. It's a good series, well run. Love it."

Neal Harding is a 65-year-old semi-retired restaurateur. He previously owned a number of Hooters franchises including properties in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, England and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Two years ago he sold a number of his locations back to the parent company but still has interests in a handful of Canadian and U.S. Virgin Islands restaurants.

As far as how poker fits into his life, there wasn't much gray area.

"Poker is pure hobby. I love the competition," Harding said.

