

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Hammond, Ind.

Event #5

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 366

Prize Pool: \$109,800

October 20-21, 2014



James Hull Hauls in Event 5 Victory

No-limit novice claims \$24,161 first prize, a gold ring and a seat in this weekend's Main Event.

Chicago pro Aaron Massey finishes ninth, 2008 November Niner Dennis Phillips 11th.

Hammond, Ind. (October 21, 2014) — A newly-retired United States Marine and a mixed martial arts fighter squared off heads-up in Event 5 of the World Series of Poker Circuit Tuesday night in Hammond, Ind. The \$365 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament drew 366 players including standouts like 2008 November Niner Dennis Phillips and two-time Circuit ring winner Aaron Massey. In the end though, the title came down to two amateurs – James Hull, the Marine, and Kyle Weickhardt, the MMA fighter.

Hull went on to best Weickhardt to the tune of his first gold ring, \$24,161, 50 points toward the Casino Championship and a free seat in this weekend's Main Event.

"It feels great. [It's] exciting," Hull said.

Admittedly, Hull is new to the game. Freshly retired off 22 years in the Marine Corps – the latter three of which were spent stationed in Japan – he's back Stateside looking for ways to occupy his newfound free time. His wife, Diane, proved to be the driving force that motivated him to take the 175-mile drive from his hometown of Fishers, Ind. to give it a shot in the Horseshoe's Circuit series.

"My wife enjoys to play [poker]," Hull said. "I just retired. I'm looking for a new hobby. I guess I found it now."

Given his inexperience, the fact Hull outlasted the likes of the previously mentioned Phillips and Massey makes his victory that much more impressive. Both players made their presence known late in the tournament – Phillips in the form of an 11th-place finish and Massey in the form of a ninth.

"To be honest with you, until the final hand I had no clue [if I could win]," Hull said. "I'm new at the game. I enjoyed my time. I got very lucky. My hands held up and that's what it takes."

