

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Hammond, Ind.

Event #11

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 221

Prize Pool: \$110,500

October 26-27, 2014



Lee Rzentkowski Wins Hammond \$580 Event

Former online pro earns \$27,627 and his first gold ring. Bracelet winner Will Givens finishes third, pockets \$12,427.

Hammond, Ind. (October 27, 2014) — Lee Rzentkowski won Event 11 of the World Series of Poker Circuit at Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind. Monday night. The victory in the \$580 no-limit hold'em tournament came at the hands of a 221-player field and earned Rzentkowski \$27,627 along with his first Circuit gold ring.

“I’ve always thought I could do this,” the former online pro said. “I used to play a lot. Life got in the way and I stopped playing as much poker.”

Rzentkowski’s confidence and poker prowess comes from his time as an online pro. By his own account, he was without a traditional job for many years and paid his way through life on earnings from the virtual felt. Like many these days, Black Friday changed the course of his day-to-day routine and the 43-year-old Madison, Wisc. resident looked for work elsewhere.

“When I played online [...] six-man sit-and-gos were my bread and butter. I made a living for three years just playing six-man sit-and-gos,” Rzentkowski said. “Online poker went away and that kind of dried up some of my drive. The grind of playing live didn’t work with my family. I cut way back.”

With a wife and kids at home, Rzentkowski’s poker-related travel is limited to four or five tournament trips a year. The light schedule means he needs to make the most of the events he’s able to play and that’s just what he did Monday at the Horseshoe.

Beginning alongside Day 2 of the Main Event, Event 11 drew talents like bracelet winners Nick Jivkov and Will Givens. While Jivkov exited the tournament shy of the money, Givens played his way to a final table berth where he was joined by perennial Circuit cashers Rex Clinkscales and Dean Schultz.

Clinkscales (eighth, \$3,205) and Schultz (sixth, \$5,265) began the final playing session short and weren’t much of a factor late in the event. Givens, meanwhile, maneuvered his stack all the way to three-handed play before he looked down at ace-king and moved all in. Eventual runner-up Ellen Lambeth called for her tournament life with king-six and spiked a six on the flop. Givens

