

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Harveys Lake Tahoe
Stateline, Nev.
Event #10
The Main Event
Buy-In: \$1500 (+\$175)
Total Entries: 380
Prize Pool: \$570,000
November 7-10, 2014**



Jesse Wilke Wins the Harveys Lake Tahoe Main Event and \$125K

Seattle pro scores his first gold ring and a berth in the season-ending National Championship.

Stateline, Nev. (November 10, 2014) – Jesse Wilke earned his first World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring Monday night in the Harveys Lake Tahoe Main Event. The Seattle pro claimed his trophy at the hands of a 380-entry field and pocketed \$125,401 and a National Championship berth for his efforts. Like many in the poker community, Wilke, previously an online pro, was forced to adapt his game to the live felt after the events of Black Friday. It was a hard transition and he watched as many of his online counterparts left the country to continue their virtual careers.

“It’s been too difficult to do what a lot of my friends have done where they’re moving out of the country,” Wilke said. “All of my friends and family are [here]. My husband’s career is in Seattle, so for me I’ve mostly been playing live cash games.”

Wilke added the title ‘live tournament pro’ to his repertoire recently and has enjoyed some success on the felt over the last couple years. Toward end of last season he final tabled the Caesars Palace Circuit Main Event and parlayed his confidence into a deep run in this past summer’s WSOP Main Event. He even held the chip lead in the money on Day 4 but sputtered and busted short of Day 5.

“[The ring] is a big deal,” Wilke said of his Harveys Lake Tahoe victory. “I’ve had kind of a rough year. I had the chip lead of the Main Event on Day 4 in the money and didn’t make Day 5. It means a lot to finally connect the dots between online and live play and show a little success on the live circuit, too. [...] I have a symbol that my hard work actually paid off.”

The \$1,675 Main Event began last Friday with the first of two starting flights. The opener drew 166 entries that paired with the 214 of Saturday’s flight to create a total field of 380 entries. The prize pool topped out at \$570,000 and paid the top 45 finishers. Day 2 began Sunday at 12 p.m. with 72 players remaining and notables like three time ring winners La Sengphet and Dan Lowery, the Bike’s 2013 Casino Champion Nathan Bjerno and bracelet winner Sean Drake still in the hunt. Wilke began the day 28th in chips and watched as Bjerno hit the rail shy of the

money.

Of the above notables, Sengphet carded the deepest run finishing 14th for \$7,877. Lowery (35th, \$2,839) and Drake (20th, \$5,523) also joined her in the money.

Those unable to play their way to a cash included bracelet winners Loni Harwood, Phil Hui, Robert Cheung and Howard “Tahoe” Andrew, five-time ring winner Valentin Vornicu, five-time National Championship qualifier Charles “Woody” Moore, Casino Championship leader Steve Foutty and 44-time Circuit casher Rex Clinkscales.

By the time play sheared itself to the final nine, Wilke held the chip lead and set the pace over the likes of Dan Stir who was second in chips, Gerald Cohen and Richard Fitzgerald. In the end, the Day 3 short stack Barry Kay proved to be Wilke’s toughest opponent. Kay chipped up during the early stages of final table play and became a force to be reckoned with after his pocket tens doubled at the hands of Wilke’s [As][7s]. The pot moved Kay over 1,000,000 chips and he rode his hot streak all the way to a heads-up berth. It wasn’t until Kay turned the bottom the end of a straight and Wilke the top end that the pair’s battle came to an end and Wilke emerged victorious.

“I know a lot of people think you can’t think about [winning] or picture that because it will affect how you play,” Wilke said. “I actually think it’s important to visualize the fact you could win. I think you have to let yourself enjoy that even if it sucks more when you bust out. I think it’s important to accept the fact that’s a possibility [...] That is still your goal, ultimately.”

Wilke is a 32-year-old professional poker player from Seattle, Wash. The Main Event victory marks his 10th WSOP-related cash and moves him over \$240,000 in career earnings.

The Main Event was the tenth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harveys Lake Tahoe. The \$1,675 no-limit hold’em event attracted 380 entries. The total prize pool came to \$570,000 and the top 45 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, November 7 at 12 p.m. and Saturday, November 8 at 12 p.m. Flight A drew 166 entries and advanced 32 while Flight B attracted 214 and advanced 40.

Play restarted Sunday at 12 p.m. with 72 players. It took about two hours to burst the money bubble. It took about 8 hours and 45 minutes to reach the final table from the money bubble. Day 2 wrapped up at about 12:15 a.m. with seven players remaining.

Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. and concluded at about 6 p.m. in the middle of Level 30.

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

Action began with 16 minutes left in Level 24 – 10,000/20,000 with a 3,000 ante

Seat 1: Jesse Wilke - 2,220,000 (110 BBs)
Seat 2: Dan Stir – 1,600,000 (80 BBs)
Seat 3: Barry Kay – 475,000 (23 BBs)
Seat 4: Richard Fitzgerald – 657,000 (32 BBs)
Seat 5: Yotam Shmuelov – 308,000 (15 BBs)

Seat 6: Jasthi Kumar – 1,037,000 (51 BBs)
Seat 7: Allen Hickman – 267,000 (13 BBs)
Seat 8: Robert Donahue – 552,000 (27 BBs)
Seat 9: Gerald Cohen – 492,000 (24 BBs)

About the Final Table:

1st: Jesse Wilke - \$125,401
Hometown: Kenmore, Wash.
Age: 32
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$44,099

2nd: Barry Kay - \$77,492
Hometown: Incline Village, Nev.
Age: 66
Occupation: Retired
Circuit Earnings: \$1,149

3rd: Gerald Cohen - \$56,624
Hometown: Oakland, Calif.
Age: 27
Occupation: Poker Tournament Director
Circuit Earnings: \$9,324

4th: Jasthi Kumar - \$42,043
Hometown: San Ramon, Calif.
Age: 49
Occupation: IT Manager
Circuit Earnings: \$12,255

5th: Dan Stir - \$31,703
Hometown: Sacramento, Calif.
Age: 39
Circuit Earnings: \$0

6th: Allen Hickman - \$24,265
Hometown: Dripping Springs, Texas
Age: 37
Occupation: Metals Recycling
Circuit Earnings: \$0

7th: Richard Fitzgerald - \$18,844
Hometown: Sioux Falls, S.D.
Age: 43
Circuit Earnings: \$36,642

8th: Yotam Shmuelov - \$14,843
Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.
Age: 30
Circuit Earnings: \$24,506

9th: Robert Donahue - \$11,856
Hometown: Lake Tahoe, Calif.
Age: 53
Occupation: Retired
Circuit Earnings: \$6,905

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harveys Lake Tahoe:

EVENT #1: Erle Mankin defeated 133 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$11,171
EVENT #2: Frankie O'Dell defeated 65 players (\$365 H.O.R.S.E.) for \$6,825
EVENT #3: Michael Murphy defeated 168 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$13,609
EVENT #4: Deva Crouch defeated 631 players (\$365 NLHE Re-entry) for \$38,807
EVENT #5: Steve Foutty defeated 171 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$13,850
EVENT #6: Daniel Aran defeated 194 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$15,132
EVENT #7: Donna Delfin defeated 182 players (\$365 NLHE 6-Max) for \$15,020
EVENT #8: Daniel Lowery defeated 215 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$16,128
EVENT #9: George Saca defeated 203 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$26,390
MAIN EVENT: Jesse Wilke defeated 380 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$125,401
EVENT #11: Michael Rocco defeated 112 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$10,079
EVENT #12: Sarge Glenn defeated 152 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$12,314

Steve Foutty earned the Casino Champion honors following three cashes, two final tables and one gold ring performance totaling 80 points. He's set to join the Harveys Lake Tahoe Main Event champion at the National Championship this spring. There, they'll play for their share of an up-to \$2 million prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 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.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com.

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