

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Tunica, Miss.

Event #10

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 457

Prize Pool: \$685,500

January 30-February 2, 2015



Johnny Landreth Wins Tunica Main Event and \$147K

Lanett, Ala. retiree perseveres through eight-hour heads-up battle, punches ticket to National Championship.

Tunica, Miss. (February 2, 2015) — A lifetime of poker, and Johnny Landreth finally has his ring. The Lanett, Ala. native won a marathon heads-up match against Tom Thomas to conquer a field of 457 in the Horseshoe Casino World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event and take down \$147,388, his first gold WSOP Circuit ring, and book a seat in the National Championship.

Landreth, a 67-year-old retiree and father of five, said he's been playing poker his whole life. He's banked some solid scores in his career with the headliner being a win in a 2005 WPO event for \$185,797. However, WSOP success had mostly eluded him until now. Now, he has something major to show for his efforts on the tour.

“I've got a lot of friends that have [a ring],” Landreth said. “I played a lot of events and it just hadn't fallen my way. It did this time.”

Landreth found himself in prime position to grab the win entering Day 3 as only eight players remained and he held a slight chip lead over Thomas with a massive gulf between those two and the rest of the players. Combined, the two brought more than 6,000,000 into the final day of the 9,140,000 total in play, good for more than 100 big blinds each as the day began at 15,000/30,000/5,000.

That meant the pressure was on for the rest of the competitors, and one by one, they were crushed under the overwhelming stacks of Landreth and Thomas who found themselves heads up with the gold Circuit ring in a tiny black box between them just over two hours into play. Landreth held about a two-to-one lead at that point. A marathon battle ensued, with neither player looking to take major risks given how deep the stacks were (shorter-stacked Thomas still had 72 big blinds). Landreth said he was prepared for the tough battle against an opponent whom he characterized as “really conservative.”

“I knew I was going to have to be patient, but I have to be aggressive on top of that,” he said. “You have to get to know a player, and that's what we did for so long, and that's why we started off so slow.”

While many heads-up matches feature very aggressive play and massive swings, this one featured more gradual, but still stark, shifts of momentum. Rather than one big pot determining

