

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Palm Beach Kennel Club
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em (Re-Entry)
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)
Total Entries: 2,050
Prize Pool: \$1,025,000
Feb. 4-9, 2015**



Restrepo Gets His Gold Ring

Juan Restrepo earns a WSOP Circuit gold ring just one year after finishing runner-up in the same event.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (February 9, 2015) -- Just one short year ago Juan Restrepo came so close to a gold ring in this same event, but just missed out. He worked his way through a 2,531 player field to find himself with the chip lead and heads up against four-time gold ring winner, Maurice Hawkins. It wasn't meant to be for Restrepo. Hawkins walked away with the gold ring and first place cash while Restrepo was wondering what could have been. He still earned the second place prize of \$114,224, but the gold ring was missing.

Today Restrepo did the unthinkable and put on a repeat performance from last year. He navigated through a field of 2,050 players to make the final table in the Palm Beach Kennel Club \$1 million guarantee opening event for the second straight year. Again he made it to heads-up play with the chip lead. This time it was different for Restrepo though. This time he won the gold ring.

Restrepo defeated Kim Stone heads-up to win Event #1 – \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry for \$161,452 and his first WSOP Circuit gold ring.

“It’s unbelievable because last year I made it here heads up in the exact same scenario, and I couldn’t get the job done,” said Restrepo. “I felt like today was my day.”

It was Restrepo’s day. He played well, he caught cards, and he used his experience from last year to win the tournament. Restrepo can attribute some of his success to improving over the past year by surrounding himself with other good players. It gave him the edge he needed to get from second to first.

Similar to last year, Restrepo found himself against a tough opponent heads up. Stone had never made a WSOP final table before, but proved she belonged. She fought her way to heads up play after starting the final table seventh in chips. Stone finished Day 1 as the overwhelming chip leader, which caught a lot of attention around the tournament room because of the fact she was so far ahead of everyone else.

Restrepo ended Day 2 as the chip leader and entered the final table as the chip leader. His focus was directly on winning the gold ring now that he had another shot at it. According to Restrepo, his chip lead allowed him to play aggressive and play for the win instead of worrying about pay jumps.

Restrepo is from Pembroke Pines, Florida. The 26-year-old is a professional poker player who mainly plays cash games. Restrepo now has two WSOP cashes. Both have come in this event and both have earned him more than \$100,000. His two cashes total \$275,676, which is an average of \$137,838 per cash, pretty darn impressive for someone who considers themselves a cash game pro.

Event #1 was the first gold ring event on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, but the third event to be complete. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry tournament featured five Day 1 starting flights to attract 2,050 players, generating a \$1,025,000 prize pool. The top 207 players were paid.

The tournament began last Wednesday with the first of five Day 1 starting flights. Day 2 began Sunday at 11 a.m with 265 players remaining and played until the final table was reached. Day 3 began Monday at 3 p.m. and concluded at 7:30 p.m.

Notes on the event:

- Restrepo used two entries.
- Restrepo entered the final table as the chip leader. His heads opponent, Kim Stone (2nd place) finished Day 1 as the chip leader.
- This victory and last year's runner-up finish in this event are the only two WSOP cashes Restrepo has. Both have come for more than \$100,000.
- The tournament featured five Day 1 starting flights and allowed unlimited re-entry.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Palm Beach Kennel Club twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Palm Beach Kennel Club:

EVENT #1: Juan Restrepo defeated 2,050 players (\$580 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$161,452

EVENT #2: Mitch Meltzer defeated 114 players (\$365 PLO8) for \$10,261

EVENT #3: Jeff Charlton defeated 81 players (\$365 H.O.R.S.E.) for \$7,776

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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