

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Palm Beach Kennel Club
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Event #7
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 196
Prize Pool: \$58,800
Feb. 11-12, 2015**



Matson Wins the Seventh Event in West Palm Beach

John O. Matson takes one step closer to earning his seat to the National Championship.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (February 12, 2015) -- John O. Matson collects another 50 National Championship points with his victory in Event #7 – \$365 No-Limit Hold'em. He defeated gold-ring winner, Jonathan Abla, in a heads up battle lasting nearly two and half hours long to earn his first WSOP Circuit gold ring.

“A goal of mine is to go to the National Championship,” said Matson. “You can’t buy your way in, you have to earn your way in.”

Matson was ecstatic about the gold ring, but was more concerned about the points. Matson has made it his goal to reach the National Championship this year. Not so much because of the value it offers players, but because of the hard work it takes to earn a seat. He is willing to put in the time, travel and hard work at the table to collect enough points to earn a seat to this year’s National Championship.

This victory gives Matson 50 points. He now has 107.5 points on the season which puts him in 27th place. The top 50 point earners at the end of the season earn a seat to the National Championship along with each stop’s Casino Champions and Main Event Champion. He will still need to collect more points to secure a spot in this year’s National Championship. It is being projected that the bubble will be between 130 and 145 points.

Of course Matson could just go ahead and win the Casino Championship and lock up his seat right now. He would have to catch Abla though. Abla took the lead in the Casino Championship with his runner-up finish. It was his second final table and third cash of the series.

This marks Matson’s sixth cash of the 2014-2015 WSOP Circuit season. He finished runner-up in a Foxwood’s event. That runner-up finish and today’s victory account for 87.5 of Matson’s 107.5 points. A couple more deep runs this season is what Matson needs to accomplish his goal of reaching the National Championship. With several stops left it looks like he is in a good position to do that.

Event #7 was the seventh gold ring event on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, but eighth to finish. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 196 players, generating a \$58,800 prize pool. The top 21 players were paid.

Day 1 began Wednesday at 11 a.m. with 196 players. Day 2 began Thursday at 2 p.m. with five players remaining. The tournament concluded about 6:30 p.m. after a two and half hour heads up battle.

Notes on the event:

- This was Jonathan Abla's (2nd place) second final table of the series.
- This event drew the most entries of the series other than the re-entry event.

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

EVENT #4: Scot Masters defeated 193 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$15,056

EVENT #5: John Drikakis defeated 192 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,976

EVENT #6: Alex Nguyen defeated 193 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max) for \$15,925

EVENT #7: John O Matson defeated 196 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$15,289

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