

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, N.C.
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 466
Prize Pool: \$139,800
April 16-17, 2015**



Sewell Takes Down the Opener

Tony Sewel finished runner-up in a gold ring event at this stop two years ago. Today he gets the gold ring and his first WSOP victory.

Cherokee, N.C. (April 17, 2015) -- The World Series of Poker is back at Harrah's Cherokee for the second time this season. The first time was a success with several events creating record breaking fields. The opening event of this second series at Cherokee began yesterday with 466 hopefuls registering to try to take down the first gold ring of this anticipated series. Michael "Tony" Sewell was the fortunate player to come away with the gold ring and the first place prize money of \$30,050. He defeated Clark Curry heads-up after a brief heads-up match.

This isn't the first time Sewell has been at a Cherokee final table. Two years ago Sewell made it all the way to the final table in the second ever WSOP event at this property. He finished runner-up in a 949 player field to earn \$33,458.

"It was nerve-racking," said Sewell about heads-up play. "[Curry] doubled up on me one time, I thought [the][ring] was going to get away again."

Sewell busted Zack Caldwell in third place to become the overwhelming chip leader headed into heads-up play. The ring that he was so close to winning two years ago was now just one short stacked opponent away from his possession. Unfortunately for Sewell, his opponent, Curry, doubled up early into the heads-up match. Sewell wanted the gold ring and he wasn't about to let one double up by Curry stop him from getting it. He quickly slammed the door shut on Curry's newly acquired life and busted him just a few hands later with a full house.

"It's all about the ring. My brother's got one and I wanted one," said Sewell. "I know when I come up here; Cherokee's my house in the spring."

Sewell is from Shelby, North Carolina, which is east about 120 miles from Cherokee. He celebrated a little bit with his rail, but has now put his focus on the upcoming \$500K re-entry event. He plans to play the entire series here at Cherokee and has his sights set on a second gold ring.

Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Cherokee in Cherokee, N.C. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 466 players generating a \$139,800 prize pool. The top 54 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at noon and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with 14 players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 6:30 p.m.

Notes on the event:

- Sewell finished runner-up in the second ever event at this property back in April of 2013.
- Sewell's brother, Ronnie, won a gold ring at the Tunica Circuit stop in 2009.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee 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 Harrah's Cherokee:

EVENT #1: Tony Sewell defeated 466 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$30,050.

With the first tournament wrapped up, 11 more ring events remain at the Harrah's Cherokee series.

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.

For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at ijhanson13@gmail.com.