

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, N.C.
Event #5
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 451
Prize Pool: \$135,300
April 19-20, 2015**



Ed Willis Goes One for One

Rookie to the WSOP, Ed Willis, wins Event #5 and a WSOP Circuit gold ring.

Cherokee, N.C. (April 21, 2015) -- Ed Willis came to Harrah's Cherokee for the first time ever and entered his first WSOP event in his lifetime on Sunday. Never could he imagine that just a day and a half later he would be a WSOP champion. Ed Willis has gone on to defeat a 451 player field in Event #5 – \$365 No-Limit Hold'em to become a WSOP Circuit gold ring winner. His victory earned him the first place prize of \$29,079 and 50 Casino Championship points.

"It's amazing, I would have never pictured myself here," said Willis about winning in his first WSOP event.

Willis manages a small deli in Atlanta. Poker is usually the last thing on his mind and he just plays for recreation a few times a month.

"Honestly, I don't play that much poker," said Willis. "I play maybe three times a month in bar games."

Willis shows that although there can be advantages gained, anyone can become a WSOP Circuit gold ring winner with a little good fortune on their side. It wasn't all luck leading to Willis' winning performance though. Willis credits himself with making some good folds along the way to victory.

"I am proof that anybody can [win]," said Willis. "You don't have to be a pro."

Event #5 was the fifth 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 451 players, generating a \$135,300 prize pool. The top 54 players were paid.

Day 1 began Sunday at 5 p.m. and lasted 15 levels. Day 2 began Monday at 3 p.m. with 54 players remaining. The tournament concluded Tuesday at 2 a.m.

Notes on the event:

- < This event was delayed from a 3 p.m. start time to a 5 p.m. start time because of the record breaking senior's and re-entry events on Sunday.
- < Mark Jewett (2nd place) now has at least one cash at Harrah's Cherokee each of the past three seasons.

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 56 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

EVENT #2: John Morris defeated 242 players (\$365 PLO) for \$17,787

EVENT #3: Matthew Lee defeated 581 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$36,598

EVENT #4: Chris Russell defeated 2,937 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$125,559

EVENT #5: Ed Willis defeated 451 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$29,079

With the fifth tournament wrapped up, seven 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.