

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #6

Pot-Limit Omaha Hi-Low 8

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 91

Prize Pool: \$27,300

September 21-22, 2015



Mark Smith Goes One-for-One in PLO Hi-Low

Stuart, Fla. semi-pro seizes opportunity to play live tournament, earns first gold ring.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (September 22, 2015) — Mark Smith of Stuart, Fla. cited “opportunity” as the reason he entered Event #6 of the Palm Beach Kennel Club’s World Series of Poker Circuit. The 36-year-old semi-pro and his mother are regulars at the PBKC. She sticks to hold’em while Smith has spent the last two years focusing on Omaha hi-low. Thus, when the WSOP came to town, a little card game between mother and son was a no brainer.

“Just opportunity; the fact that it came up,” he said of why he played the \$365 pot-limit Omaha hi-low tournament. “My mother told me about it and said I needed to go play. I said, ‘Sounds good.’ She’d love to play in it as well. We decided to send me in it since I’m a little more experienced in the hi-low.”

Fast-forward to Tuesday night and Smith is the WSOP’s most recent gold ring champion. At his mothers urging, he masterfully outlasted 91 players to earn \$8,192 as well as 50 points toward the Casino Championship race and his first gold ring. Remarkably, Event #6 marked his first time playing a live hi-low tournament.

“Really I kind of had the feeling [I was going to win it] the whole time,” Smith admitted. “Everything was going my way. I just kept playing my game and as long I stuck to my gameplan I knew it would turn out. It feels just as good as I thought it would. Everything worked out as planned.”

Smith began Day 2 leading the final seven players. Among them were Circuit regulars Jesse McVicker, who sat second, and Joshua Pender, who was toward the bottom of the counts. It took but a couple hours for the field to narrow to three as Mark Streckfus busted seventh, Tim Kline sixth, McVicker fifth and Pender fourth. Jeff Gershowitz was next to go in third leaving Smith to battle Williams Higgins heads up. Higgins held the chip lead, but after a two-hour battle it was Smith who went home with gold.

Smith’s victory marks his first WSOP-related cash. He is a semi-professional poker player who spends his time away from the felt buying and selling estates – a venture he partakes in with, you guessed it, his mother.
