

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Horseshoe S. Indiana
Elizabeth, Ind.
Event #11
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 113
Prize Pool: \$33,900
October 10-11, 2015**



Lucas Johnston Wins in His First Ever WSOP Event

Lucas Johnston denies Frank Covich his second gold ring of the series.

Elizabeth, Ind. (Oct. 12, 2015) -- Lucas Johnston has won the Event #11 - \$365 No-Limit Hold'em gold ring. He defeated Event #2 winner, Frank Covich, heads-up for the title. Johnston pockets \$10,170 for the first place finish.

The final table started off with a bang, losing the first two players in just the first couple of hands. Players continued to fall at a rapid pace until only three players remained, and that is when play halted. No one was eliminated for several levels of play. Fatigue was starting to set in. Eventually third place finisher, Dustin Pierce would fall, followed by Frank Covich in second place.

"Three-handed play was a grind. I small balled the whole way through, frustrated my opponent until he made a bad play and called him off," said Johnston.

The 45-year-old said that he owes a lot of the credit to his good friend Jeff Alexander, who has been coaching him for years. According to Johnston, this was the first real tournament he has ever played in.

"I was more nervous at the beginning of the tournament because I have never played. Once I got a decent chip stack I was okay. I didn't feel the nerves," said Johnston.

The truck driver from Bloomington, Indiana defeated a final table that included three gold ring winners. Finishing in seventh place was Cody Pack. Pack is arguably the hottest player on the Circuit this season, already securing two gold rings, including winning the six-max at this stop. Finishing in fifth place was Scot Masters. Masters is a gold ring winner from West Virginia. Master won his gold ring last February at the West Palm Beach stop. The last gold ring winner Johnston had to beat was Covich. Covich won his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring earlier this series in Event #2 - \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry. This second place finish secured Covich the Casino Championship title. Covich now has six WSOP Circuit cashes and they are all final tables.

Although this was the first WSOP gold ring to Johnston's name, it was not the first championship ring in his trophy case. Johnston was a part of the 1988 Indiana Hoosier soccer team that went on to win the National Championship.

"I am very happy, I am glad that it worked out this way," said Johnston about his victory.

Event #11 was the eleventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe S. Indiana. The \$365 No-prize pool. The top 12 players were paid.

Day 1 began Saturday at 3 p.m. and lasted 15 and one half levels. Day 2 began Sunday at 3 p.m. with nine players remaining. The tournament concluded Sunday at about 9:15 p.m.

Notes on the event:

- ◁ Frank Covich (2nd place) clinched the Casino Championship title with this second place finish. The only player that could pass him was Justin Harvell. Harvell was playing Event #12 and needed a second place or better finish to pass Covich. Harvell busted short of the money and shortly after this tournament ended.

Frank Covich accumulated the most overall points during the Horseshoe S. Indiana twelve combined gold ring tournaments and earns the title Casino Champion. He receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino 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 Global Casino 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 Horseshoe S. Indiana:

EVENT #1: Joseph Mattingly defeated 167 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$13,527
EVENT #2: Frank Covich defeated 731 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$43,860
EVENT #3: Robert Cheung defeated 124 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$10,416
EVENT #4: Clayton Jiang defeated 105 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$9,450
EVENT #5: Cody Pack defeated 164 players (\$365 NLHE 6-Max) for \$13,776
EVENT #6: Connor Graham defeated 142 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$11,928
EVENT #7: Michael Bailey defeated 174 players (\$365 NLHE Bounty) for \$9,396
EVENT #8: Randell Harrod defeated 166 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$13,446
EVENT #9: Ben Beighle defeated 76 players (\$365 PLO w/Re-Buys) for \$22,406
EVENT #11: Luca Johnston defeated 113 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$10,170

The Main Event is the only event still running at the series.

All rings at S. Indiana are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2015-2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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