

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Horseshoe Casino

Hammond, Ind.

Event #3

Pot-Limit Omaha

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 106

Prize Pool: \$53,000

October 18-19, 2015



Kennii Nguyen Earns Elusive Gold Ring

Chicago pro victorious in PLO; Pockets \$15,902 and joins the ranks of gold ring winners in the process.

Hammond, Ind. (October 19, 2015) — Kennii Nguyen was the last man standing Monday evening at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind. Nguyen bested 106 players in Event #3 of the property's WSOP Circuit series, a \$580 pot-limit Omaha tournament, earning \$15,902 along with his first Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

Nguyen, a professional poker player who splits his time between Chicago and Las Vegas, laughed following the victory admitting PLO is not his game of choice. By his own estimation, he'd only played three tournaments before breaking through for a win in the Chicago area.

"It's funny," Nguyen said. "The prize is not that big, but I love it for the ring. All my friends – all my friends – have rings. It's my first ring and it comes in PLO. I play no-limit hold'em all day long."

Having played poker fulltime since 2011 and traveling with a close circle of accomplished pros, it's fair to describe Nguyen's previous lack of a gold ring as a monkey on his back. With 22 WSOP-related cashes totaling nearly \$470,000 in earnings prior to Event #3, the pro had no shortage of deep runs, but the hardware had yet to come. Most notably, he finished runner up in a 2012 \$1,500 bracelet event earning \$347,036. Again, the score was there, but no gold.

"Sooner or later it's going to come," Nguyen said of his mindset. "Skill is going to win over luck."

Nguyen used a lot of skill en route to the winner's circle Monday. Joining him during the late stages of Event #3 were ring winners Jason Mayfield (12th), Mark Fink (eighth) and Paul Mattioda (sixth) as well as Chicago Poker Classic champions Michael Younan (third) and David To (second). Having bagged the Day 1 chip lead and maneuvered his stack to a commanding advantage during four-handed play, the title was never really in jeopardy for Nguyen.

"I was having fun and the cards were running my way," Nguyen said. "I kept having good hands and people gave me chips."

