

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Horseshoe Casino

Hammond, Ind.

The Main Event – Event #9

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$1,600 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 1,376

Prize Pool: \$2,064,000

October 23-26, 2015



Krzysztof Stybaniewicz Wins Hammond Main Event and \$356K

Denver amateur earns first gold ring in 2015's largest Circuit finale.

Hammond, Ind. (October 27, 2015) — The largest Circuit Main Event of 2015 concluded early Tuesday morning at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind. The \$1,675 finale boasted a field of 1,376 entries besting last year's mark and generating a prize pool of \$2,064,000. Following four days and more than 48 hours of play, Denver's Krzysztof Stybaniewicz laid claim to the tournament's title. Stybaniewicz, a semi-pro, earned \$356,043 in addition to his first Circuit gold ring and a berth in the season-ending WSOP Global Casino Championship.

"This means everything to me," Stybaniewicz said. "I have a lot of friends that have had a lot of success. These guys are constantly making final tables and I'm kind of on the sidelines. It was nice to have the roles be reversed for once [...] Everything went right and all the spots worked out. I kept the gas pedal to the floor and brought it home."

Stybaniewicz, 26, graduated college in 2011 with a degree in finance and immediately took to poker. He played for about three years fulltime and experienced modest success. Then, about a year ago, he hit a wall. The game wasn't fulfilling like it had been and he decided to take some time away from the felt. He took nine months to clear his, then got back into it. In the days and weeks since then, he's logged five WSOP-related cashes including four this summer.

Stybaniewicz's most recent standout performance came at the hands of a difficult field. Day 3 alone included the likes of this year's WSOP Main Event 29th-place finisher Kelly Minkin, bracelet winner Aaron Steury, this season's Palm Beach Kennel Club Main Event champion Peter Vitantonio and Chicago pro Kevin Saul. The third and final day of play began with 25 players. Less than five hours later, Minkin ran her [Ac,Qh] into the [Kc,Kh] of Stybaniewicz. She busted 10th earning \$28,483 and gave Stybaniewicz the chip lead heading into the nine-handed finale.

Next to go in ninth was Vitantonio when Robert Kuhn spiked a three-outer against his [Ad,Jd]. From there Hao Sun finished eighth. Saul, who along with Minkin was one of the most active players during the middle stages of Day 3, didn't get anything going at the final table. He was caught bluffing early and eventually met his demise seventh courtesy of Kuhn. Kuhn followed him to the rail next finishing sixth.

