

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Bicycle Casino and Hotel
Los Angeles, CA
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$1,000 (+\$125)
Total Entries: 81
Prize Pool: \$81,000
December 10-11, 2015**



Erkut Yilmaz Wins Ring in \$1,125 No Limit Hold'em

Turkish Poker pro wins first ring and \$25,915 after besting a tough final table at the Bicycle Casino.

Los Angeles, CA. (December 11, 2015) — Erkut Yilmaz recently moved from Northern California to Southern California in the past year. His desire for a change of scenery resulted in his first WSOP Circuit ring after besting a field of 81 players in the \$1,125 No Limit Hold'em at the Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles.

“It feels good, you know,” said Yilmaz after the tournament. “It was a short field, but a win is a win and money is money. I’m happy.”

Yilmaz takes home one of the bigger first place prizes of the series, netting \$25,915 for his win. He came out on top of a tough final table that featured six-time ring winner Valentin Vornicu, successful online player Nick Grippo and British pro Toby Lewis.

There was plenty of other firepower in the field that fell short of a final table. Maria Ho, Neil Scott and Charles “Woody” Moore were just a few of the tough pros that were in the field. Yilmaz didn’t expect it to be so tough.

“I was actually surprised in this field,” said Yilmaz. “Because I saw so many good players in this event.”

Yilmaz was originally born in Turkey, but found a home in Sacramento. He has a very good tournament resume with scores from all over Reno and Northern California. He owned a plant company in Sacramento, but eventually got rid of it and took up poker pretty much full-time.

“I have a few businesses on the side,” said Yilmaz. “But I pretty much do this professionally.”

With poker as his main focus, he decided to leave the Sacramento area to a richer poker environment. It’s worked out well for him so far.

When Yilmaz reached the final table, he was in the middle of the chip counts, but as the tournament got shorter, he excelled and seemingly in the blink of an eye, had most of the chips with three players remaining.

He eliminated Grippo in third and it didn't even take him 10 minutes to dispose of Lawrence Masi heads-up to take home the title and the cash.

"I basically won the coin flips," said Yilmaz. "I ran good at the final table. That's what happened."

Yilmaz's win puts him right in the thick of Casino Championship race. Yilmaz earns 50 points and moves into an eight-way tie for third. Wendy Freedman currently leads the race with 75 points and Alan Myerson is on her heels with 60 points. With three events left on the schedule, Yilmaz needs a good finish at another final table to take down the title. The winner of that title, along with the winner of the main event earns an automatic bid into the Global Casino Championship (previously called the National Championship).

This is the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Casino. The \$1,125 No Limit Hold'em attracted 81 players. The total prize pool came to \$81,000. The top 9 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Thursday, December 10 at noon and the unofficial final table of 10 players was reached at 11 p.m. The final card was dealt just before the end of the scheduled 21 levels at 1:30 a.m., making the total duration of the finale table about 2.5 hours.

Complete results for this event can be found on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Casino:

EVENT #1: Dave Banerjee defeated 368 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$24,265

EVENT #2: Alan Myerson defeated 140 players (\$365 NLH Bounty) for \$7,830

EVENT #3: Stuart Pfeifer defeated 1,000 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$55,110

EVENT #4: Dale Beaudoin defeated 153 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,395

EVENT #5: Nadim Shabou defeated 115 players (\$580 NLH) for \$17,255

EVENT #6: Phillip Penn defeated 124 players (\$365 Omaha 8 or Better) for \$10,400

EVENT #7: Alex Masek defeated 143 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,000

EVENT #8: Erkut Yilmaz defeated 81 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$25,915

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bicycle Casino's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 60 expected 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.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

For additional information please contact:

Steve Schult (WSOP Media Coordinator) at Steve.Schult1@gmail.com.