

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Bicycle Casino and Hotel

Los Angeles, CA

Event #12

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$3,000 (+\$250)

Total Entries: 38

Prize Pool: \$114,000

December 14-15, 2015



Craig Chait Wins First Tournament in Bike High Roller

Los Angeles area sales director wins his first career tournament in the \$3,250 High Roller No Limit Hold'em.

Los Angeles, CA. (December 15, 2015) — Craig Chait won his very first poker tournament on Tuesday night. Most poker players notch their first win in a small buy-in nightly tournament or a preliminary event.

Chait, however, took home his first title and ring with a win in the WSOP Circuit \$3,250 High Roller No Limit Hold'em at the Bicycle Casino. He bested a field of 38 players to take home \$51,300 in the biggest buy-in event of the 12-event stop.

“It feels great,” said Chait. “It’s not just my first major tournament win, but my first win. I’ve had seconds and thirds and a sixth at the main at Legends [of Poker]. It feels good to finally get my first win under my belt.”

Chait is almost strictly a tournament player, but with his day job keeping him constantly on the road, Chait prefers to stay in the Los Angeles area and grind the local events.

“I don’t like to travel for poker honestly,” he said after his win. “I have a regular job that keeps me traveling. I like to just play at the Bike and Commerce. I’ll go to Vegas for the Series or maybe Arizona for their state championship.”

He was a fixture in many of the preliminary events at this stop as well. This was his third cash and second final table of the series after a seventh place finish in the \$365 Bounty No Limit Hold'em and a 46th place finish in the \$365 No Limit Hold'em re-entry event.

Chait, the West Coast Sales Director for AIG, had to make adjustments to his game after noticing a difference in play between the prelims and the High Roller.

“The field didn’t have a lot of soft spots,” said Chait. “There was a lot more preflop action too. Any open was pretty much getting three-bet and any three-bet was getting four-bet. I like to play postflop, so that was a huge difference. Just knowing that people are going to three-bet me with ace-nine, ace-ten, or ace-jack.

“In the prelims, if there’s a three-bet, it’s probably tens or jacks or better or ace-king. I kind of had to adjust a little on Day 1 and try to slow people down a little bit more. I had to start flatting and limping a little bit more.”

When it comes to making adjustments and improving his game, Chait has a good network of people to rely on for help. He is in the same study group as Stuart Pfeifer, who won the \$365 No Limit Hold’em re-entry. Like Pfeifer, Chait won the event in which Nipun Java, another member of their study group, finished third.

It was a roller coaster final table for Chait. He came into the final table second in chips, trailing only Java, but he quickly shot up the counts after eliminated Jason Les and Erik Christensen. He took the chip lead after those two knockouts, but began to lose those chips just as quickly as he gained them.

With six players left, Chait was all in for 19,000 with blinds of 4,000/8,000. He doubled up two hands in a row to get back into contention and then made his move up the counts after they were in the money.

He doubled through Java during three-handed play and then sent Java to the rail when his pocket kings held up against Java’s pocket deuces. He got heads-up with Marcus Laffen for the title and he continued to run hot, finishing off Laffen in less than 20 minutes.

Chait earns 50 points in the Casino Championship with his first win, bringing his total to 75 points. Unfortunately for Chait, Wendy Freedman won the title with 102.5 points. 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). The points that Chait earned can still go a long way into getting him into the Global Casino Championship if he continues to play other events and can earn enough points to get an at-large bid.

This is the last of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Casino. The \$3,250 High Roller No Limit Hold’em attracted 38 players. The total prize pool came to \$114,000. The top 4 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Monday, December 14 at noon and at the end of 12 levels, 12 players remained, with registration still open. Three players registered on Day 2 to bring the total to 15 that started on Tuesday, December 12 at 1 p.m. The final table was reached at about 1:45 p.m. The final card was dealt at about 6:30 p.m., making the total duration of the finale table just under five 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

EVENT #9: Steven Curran defeated 120 players (\$365 Turbo NLH) for \$10,810

EVENT #10: Mark Peckham defeated 357 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$24,625

EVENT #11: Valentin Vornicu defeated 641 players (\$1,675 NLH Main Event) for \$197,110

EVENT #12: Craig Chait defeated 38 players (\$3,250 High Roller NLH) for \$51,300

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.

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