

2015-16 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, OK

Event #1

Monster Stack

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 1,004

Prize Pool: \$301,200

January 7-8, 2016



Texas Firefighter Blazes a Path to Gold at Choctaw

Kevin Haines wins more than \$55,000 and his first ring in Event #1

Choctaw, OK (January 9, 2016) — Kevin Haines is the champion of Event #1 at Choctaw. Haines defeated a field of 1,004 entries in the \$365 Monster Stack event, winning \$55,786 and the gold ring. In addition to the tangible prizes, he also collected 50 points in the race for Casino Champion at this venue, sharing an early lead with Event #2 winner Eric Crews.

The champ is a 44-year-old fireman from the suburbs of Dallas, and this victory was just the second cash on his tournament record. The first came in this same building in 2012 when Haines earned a small profit in the \$1,600 WSOP Circuit Main Event. That finish was worth \$3,742, and Haines was amused when asked to compare the two results.

“Hah, right!” he laughed. “Three thousand dollars compared to fifty-five? It’s not so bad.”

Haines was the shortest stack left when the final table began, starting nine-handed play with 13 big blinds. He bided his time and picked his spots, though, and he lasted long enough to get involved in a pivotal hand with four players remaining. Haines was dealt pocket queens in a three-bet pot, and his opponent moved all in with king-queen after a T-9-8 flop. Haines called, and his queens held on the turn and river. The dealer pushed him the biggest pot of the tournament, and Haines took control of more than 80% of the chips in play with three players left. Less than an hour later, it was over.

“You have to understand,” Haines said in the moments after his victory. “I’m about as much of an amateur at this game as anybody. I’m a fireman by trade, so I do this for fun.”

Haines certainly didn’t carry himself like an amateur at the final table, and he seemed to be having a great deal of fun as he posed for the winner’s photos in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

