

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Horseshoe Council Bluffs
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Event #9
No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 265
Prize Pool: \$79,500
April 6-7, 2016**



Maurice Hawkins Wins His Fifth Gold Ring

Maurice Hawkins becomes the 11th player in Circuit history to win five gold rings.

Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 7, 2016) -- Maurice Hawkins has just become the 11th player in WSOP Circuit history to win five career gold rings. He won his fifth career gold ring Thursday night in the monster stack event at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. This is the first time he has won at this property on the Circuit.

"I am just happy to win a tournament. I haven't won a tournament in a long time and I am really happy to get the good energy going before the World Series starts up," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said that he intends to play a full schedule of WSOP events this summer in Las Vegas. He said he is going to play all of the 1k's and 3k's, some of the 5k's, maybe the PLO championship and he also may try to get into the high roller event depending on how things are going. A gold bracelet is still missing from Hawkins' trophy case, but he has come close on multiple occasions. In the 2014 series he recorded a 9th place finish and a 12th place finish. He finished 9th in the Millionaire Maker event for \$128,150 and 12th in the Little One for One Drop for \$40,666. Both of those fields had over 4,400 entries.

Hawkins lives in West Palm Beach, Florida, but was originally from St. Louis, Missouri. His last gold ring before today's came at the West Palm Beach Circuit stop at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. In 2014 he won the Palm Beach Kennel Club's signature \$580 Re-Entry event. He defeated a field of 2,531 entries to earn \$183,498. That ring led to a strong summer series and he is hoping this gold ring has the same effect for 2016 summer series.

Hawkins made his way out to Council Bluffs, Iowa for redemption. He played the Horseshoe Baltimore Main Event and high roller event just last week and was unhappy with his play. He came to Iowa to win, but first made a pit stop back home in St. Louis to see his mother and sister.

"I am just thankful that I can play poker for a living because there are a lot of people struggling back where I'm from," said Hawkins. "I think that gave me a lot of clarity and I think that it will propel me for the rest of my life."

Hawkins doesn't play on the Circuit as much as he used to. Since he doesn't play full-time on the WSOP Circuit and sticks to mostly playing just Main Events, he hasn't given himself much of a chance to earn a Global Casino Championship seat. New to this year, any gold ring winner on the season can buy-in to the Global Casino Championship if they aren't one of the 100 players to earn a free seat. The buy-in is \$10,000 and 100% of it goes into the prizepool. Zero dollars in rake are taken from the tournament. Hawkins was thrilled to find out that he has this option and intends to buy-in to the 2016 Global Casino Championship. He still has a shot to earn a free seat, but only if he can get hot at the end of the season.

Hawkins is staying the weekend to play in the Main Event and go after ring number six. The monster stack marked Hawkins' 44th career WSOP cash. Of those 44 cashes, 28 have come on the Circuit. This victory pushes Hawkins' career WSOP tournament earnings over the \$800k mark. Of all of the five-time gold ring winners, (Kurt Jewell, Mark Smith, Vincent Moscati and Kevin McColgan) he has the most in WSOP tournament earnings.

Event #9 was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack tournament attracted 265 players generating a \$79,500 prize pool. The top 27 players were paid.

Day 1 began Wednesday at 12 p.m. and lasted 20 levels. Day 2 began Thursday at 2 p.m. with 27 players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 10:20 p.m. Thursday near the end of Level 28.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Horseshoe Council Bluffs twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series:

EVENT #1: Doug Hutcheson defeated 179 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,500
EVENT #2: Mark Fink defeated 141 players (\$365 NLHE Bounty) for \$7,898
EVENT #3: Duane Gerleman defeated 743 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$44,577
EVENT #4: Tommy Hoard defeated 118 players (\$365 NLHE 1-day) for \$10,617
EVENT #5: Scott Buller defeated 117 players (\$365 LimitO8oB) for \$10,531
EVENT #6: Jason Seitz defeated 120 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$10,801
EVENT #7: Jacob Phillips defeated 153 players (\$365 NLHE 6-max) for \$12,853
EVENT #8: Adrian Jimenez defeated 89 players (\$365 PLO8) for \$8,545
EVENT #9: Maurice Hawkins defeated 265 players (\$365 NLHE Monster) for \$19,477

With nine tournaments wrapped up, only three more ring events remain at the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series.

All rings at the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2015-2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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