

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Horseshoe Council Bluffs
Event #10
The Main Event
Buy-In: \$1500 (+\$175)
Total Entries: 321
Prize Pool: \$481,500
April 8-11, 2016**



Maurice Hawkins Wins Main Event at Council Bluffs

Hawkins won his 6th career gold ring and \$113k.

Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 11, 2016) – Maurice Hawkins has just won the 2016 Horseshoe Council Bluffs Main Event to become the seventh player in WSOP Circuit history to win six career gold rings. This is his first Circuit Main Event victory and second gold ring of this series. Last Thursday [Hawkins won the series' Monster Stack](#) event to capture his fifth gold ring.

Coming into today, the third and final day of the WSOP Circuit Main Event at Council Bluffs with six players remaining, Hawkins was guaranteed a min cash of at least \$21,489, but he had his mind made up that he was going to take this down. On April 6th, Hawkins had [predicted on Twitter](#) that he would win two tournaments in the month of April. Not only did he do just that, but he actually went two-for-two in the series, as the Monster and Main were the only two events he played.




Hawkins can credit some of his success at this series to changing up his style of play. He describes his new style of play as “smart” compared to his old style of “erratic.” He said that he feels confident going into the summer with the money from his recent wins, as well as his newly refined style of play.

One could argue that Hawkins road to this victory really began mid day on Day 2, after he took down an [820,000 chip pot](#) with pocket aces against T.M. Williams' pocket sevens. When asked about how that particular pot changed the course of the game for him Hawkins said, “I was thinking that there was no way in hell that I could get the amount of chips needed to win the tournament at whatever level it was, because my chip lead was massive. Even if I won a 100 or lost 50, I think losing 50 would be more hurtful than winning 100 [would be helpful]. I was just focused on not losing pots.”

Hawkins strategy of not losing pots obviously worked, as he entered Day 3 second in chips behind Ryan Phan. Josh Turner entered the day in third place, but ended up getting [eliminated in 6th place](#) after getting it all in with **A♦K♥** against Ryan Phan's **Q♠Q♣** preflop, and the board ran out jack-high. [Bob Slezak](#) was eliminated in 5th place (\$28,177), and [Maxx Coleman](#) was eliminated in 4th place (\$37,533) just ten minutes later.

Finishing third place was [Mike Lang](#). This was the second consecutive year Lang reached this

event's final table. Last year Lang finished runner-up to Michelle Chin for \$54,468. These two cashes are the only two of his WSOP career and are worth more than \$105,000.

Heading into heads up play, Phan had Hawkins nearly four to one in chips. Within thirteen minutes, [Hawkins doubled after turning Broadway](#) to bring it closer back to even. And just 30 minutes after that, the story changed drastically when [Hawkins won a monster pot](#) to take the chip lead from Phan after turning a full house, and Phan turned trip fives. Phan never recovered from that pot, and Hawkins went on to claim the title after hitting a three outer on the river holding  against Phan's  on a  board, [the final hand of the tournament](#).

“I feel great,” says Hawkins. “I feel really great about life.”

Hawkins has reason to feel great after winning \$113,152, and his sixth gold ring. When asked what he plans to do to celebrate his answer was simple, “I am going home.”

A total of 321 players turned out to play this Main Event, and while that number may be considered small compared to other Circuit stops, the field was not lacking in some big name poker players. Rex Clinkscales, Alex Masek, Ari Engel, former November Niner Dennis Phillips, three-time Council Bluffs Main Event Winner Blair Hinkle, and many others all showed up to take their shot at winning the coveted title.

Notables cashing in this event included Joshua Turner (6th - \$21,489), Ryan Tepen (11th - \$8,460), David Cossio (16th - \$5,797), Neil Scott (19th - \$4,902), Ray Henson (20th - \$4,902), Ting Ho (21st - \$4,902), and Allen Kessler (33rd - \$2,875). Kessler's min cash in this event marked his third cash of the Series. When he was eliminated from the Main, he quickly jumped into Event #12 (\$365 No Limit Turbo), where he went on to make his fourth cash of the series, after only playing five events total.

In addition to \$113,152 prize money and the coveted ring, Hawkins has earned a free entry into the 2016 WSOP Global Casino Championship. Every Main Event winner and Casino Champion at each of the 2015-2016 WSOP Circuit stops receives a free entry (valued at \$10,000) that features a minimum prizepool of \$1,000,000. Hawkins was in contention to win this stop's Casino Champion. However, the Main Event winner gets no additional points, and as a result Josh Turner, who took 6th in the main will take the title of Casino Champion.

Final table seating assignments:

Final table action began with 21 minutes left Level 22 – 6,000/12,000 with a 2,000 ante

Seat 1: Daniel Shea – 1,050,000 (87 BBs)
Seat 2: Joshua Turner – 855,000 (71 BBs)
Seat 3: Jose Mendoza – 90,000 (7 BBs)
Seat 4: Ryan Phan – 700,000 (58 BBs)
Seat 5: Bob Slezak – 490,000 (40 BBs)
Seat 6: Maurice Hawkins – 1,300,000 (108 BBs)
Seat 7: Mike Vanier – 238,000 (19 BBs)
Seat 8: Mike Lang – 940,000 (78 BBs)
Seat 9: Maxx Coleman – 728,000 (60 BBs)

About the Final Table:

1st: Maurice Hawkins - \$113,152

Hometown: Lake Worth, Fla.

Age: 36

Occupation: Poker

Circuit Earnings: \$495,386

2nd: Ryan Phan - \$69,962

Hometown: Omaha, Neb.

Age: 31

Occupation: Mange's family business

Circuit Earnings: \$2,273

3rd: Mike Lang - \$50,813

Hometown: Waukee, Iowa

Age: 47

Occupation: Business Owner

Circuit Earnings: \$54,468

4th: Maxx Coleman - \$37,533

Hometown: Wichita, Kan.

Age: 26

Occupation: Poker

Circuit Earnings: \$9,666

5th: Bob Slezak - \$28,177

Hometown: Omaha, Neb.

Age: 58

Occupation: Investor

Circuit Earnings: \$26,512

6th: Joshua Turner - \$21,489

Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.

Age: 36

Occupation: Poker

Circuit Earnings: \$312,286

7th: Daniel Shea - \$16,645

Hometown: Westminster, Col.

Occupation: Cross-fit trainer

Circuit Earnings: \$1,271

8th: Mike Vanier - \$13,087

Hometown: Lincoln, Neb.

Age: 36

Occupation: Poker

Circuit Earnings: \$16,439

9th: Jose Mendoza - \$10,444

Hometown: Omaha, Neb.
Age: 44
Circuit Earnings: \$7,032

Joshua Turner accumulated the most overall points during the Horseshoe Council Bluffs twelve combined gold ring tournaments and earns the title Casino Champion. He receives automatic entry into the 2016 WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the season. Turner cashed four times, including winning Event #10 - \$580 No-Limit Hold'em and reaching the Main Event final table.

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
EVENT #10: Joshua Turner defeated 124 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$17,359
MAIN EVNET: Maurice Hawkins defeated 321 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$113,152
EVENT #12: Dylan Meier defeated 148 player (\$365 NLHE 1-day) for \$12,434

The Horseshoe Council Bluffs series is now complete.

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

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

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