

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 12  
Harrah's Atlantic City  
Atlantic City, NJ  
Event #5  
No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry  
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)  
Total Entries: 484  
Prize Pool: \$145,200  
March 18-21, 2016**



## **Kalid Ali Wins First Gold Ring in Re-entry Event**

**Ethiopian-American pro collects \$31,216 for a “beautiful” victory in Event #5**

**Atlantic City, NJ (March 21, 2016)** — Kalid Ali is the champion of Event #5 at Harrah's Atlantic City, defeating a field of 484 entries to win his first gold ring. In addition to the jewelry, Ali earned the top prize of \$31,216 and 50 points toward the race for seats in the WSOP Global Casino Championship.

The champ is a 42-year-old professional poker player. He's originally from Ethiopia, but he's been a resident of Washington D.C. for the past 13 years. Ali gave up his coffee business six years ago to focus on the game more seriously, and he's been playing full time for the past year or so. This tournament result is his largest on record.

Ali seemed destined for the winner's circle for a long while down the stretch run. He was already the chip leader late on Day 2 when he dragged the tournament's largest pot, culminating in a crucial double knockout. With ten players left, Ali was dealt pocket aces in the cutoff, Daniel Buzgon pocket queens on the button, and Vinny Pahuja pocket jacks in the big blind. Both of Ali's opponents got it all in preflop, and Ali put them at risk with his overpair. “That was exciting,” he smiled as he thought back to the pivotal pot. “My hand held up. I mean, that was beautiful.”

With two dangerous opponents out of the way, the path to victory became a bit more clear. If anyone else was going to beat Ali, it was likely going to be Aditya Prasetyo. The two-time ring winner picked his spots carefully as the final table shrank, and he had taken over the chip lead by the time they were three handed. Ali denied him in the end, though, retaking the lead prior to the heads-up match and sealing the victory after some brief back-and-forth.

When asked about his plan entering heads-up play, Ali emphasized the need for aggression against a tough opponent. “He's a beast,” he said. “I knew I had to play my ‘A’ game. I just tried to show him that he didn't intimidate me.”

