

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
IP Casino Resort & Spa
Biloxi, Mississippi
Event #2
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 96
Prize Pool: \$28,800
September 9, 2016**



Steven Giddings Wins His First Gold Ring

After chasing the dream for a few years, Giddings bags his first WSOP gold ring at the Imperial Palace, his lucky casino.

Biloxi, Mississippi (September 10, 2016) – Steven Giddings won his first career gold ring in Event #2 - \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Turbo by defeating a 96 player field. The tournament was scheduled as a one-day event with speedy 20 minute levels.

Though it is formatted to be a hasty tournament, there was a noticeable lull around the money bubble. When asked about the slow in play Giddings responded with a theory.

“I think it was because there was a bunch of old guys playing. There wasn’t as many aggressive kids out there playing,” he said with a chuckle.

As usual, once the money bubble was burst a slew of knockouts followed. This brought the tournament down to five-handed where there was yet another stalemate in which the field almost played through two levels without a knockout. Then, after that fateful, fifth-place knockout came, within five minutes Giddings was standing alone with a grin on his face.

This victory marks a long prestigious goal achievement and WSOP Circuit milestone for Giddings. After five years of traveling and playing in Circuit stops spanning the Southern region, Giddings finally snatched up the title he was striving for.

“I am extremely, extremely excited because I have been chasing it for a few years on a part-time basis. Until you really do something you don’t know if you can really do it,” said Giddings.

His ambitions to this point came with a handful of great runs as well as two very close calls to reaching his goal. This was Giddings 10th Circuit cash to date, bringing his total WSOP prize money to a little over \$30,000. Of those ten cashes, five have been here at the IP Casino, and out of those five, three were final table appearances, which ultimately led Giddings to a valid superstition.

“I will tell you one thing. For some reason the Imperial Palace has always been my lucky stop,” said Giddings. “The first time I ever played cards here... I sat down, my second hand, I won the bad beat jackpot.”

Giddings’ previous final table appearances at the IP Circuit both ended with him exiting in fourth place. These instances occurred in 2011; Event #5 No-Limit Hold’em Re-Entry, and in 2012; Event #2A No-Limit Hold’em. From a bad beat jackpot, to a couple final tables, and finally a WSOP gold ring, one thing is certain, Giddings will seek out poker at the Imperial Palace whenever he gets a chance.

Along with the gold ring and \$8,638 top-prize, Giddings has earned himself 50 points and the early lead in the Casino Champion race. Day 1 of the IP Biloxi Circuit was a good one for Giddings as well. He bagged 139,000 chips in Flight A of Event #1, a no-limit hold’em double-stack tournament. With a hot start Giddings will look to continue his run and be a strong contender for the Casino Championship.

Event #2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the IP Biloxi series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em Turbo tournament attracted 96 players generating a \$28,800 prize pool. The top 12 players were paid.

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

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 IP Biloxi series:

EVENT #2: Steve Giddings defeated 96 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$8,638

This was the first gold ring handed out at the IP Biloxi series. Eleven more gold rings and Circuit titles are still to come.

All rings at the IP Biloxi series are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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