

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harvey's Lake Tahoe
Stateline, Nevada
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em (30 Minute Levels)
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 145
Prize Pool: \$43,500
October 27, 2016**



Greg Armand Bears Down to Win His First Gold Ring

In a competitive, one-day endeavor, Greg Armand claims his first WSOP Circuit victory in honor of his late mother.

Stateline, Nevada (October 28, 2016) – Greg Armand won his first career gold ring in the early hours of Friday morning by defeating a field of 145 players in Event #1: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em (30 Minute Levels). The tournament was scheduled as a one-day event featuring a relatively fast-paced structure.

After a long day on the felt, Armand found himself in a heated heads-up match with Michael Hicks, which was far from expedient. In the end, Armand came out as the lone man on top, achieving his first WSOP Circuit win. He could barely contain his joy when all was said and done, rapidly speaking with clear signs of excitement. Although Armand was taking home the top-prize of \$12,181 it was not the money that was driving his exhilaration.

“It’s for the competition; I love it,” expressed Armand. “You get such a great rush when you go deep in a tournament. There’s nothing like it.”

Armand has been playing live tournaments on a semi-regular basis for only a couple years now. Nonetheless, his 2016 campaign has proven to be very fruitful for the Santa Barbara resident, with a couple significant, first-place finishes earlier in the year. A large reason for Armand’s appearance at Harvey’s Lake Tahoe is because of a recommendation that came from none other than Ari Engel, a WSOP Circuit phenom.

“We were chatting outside on the patio, on the beach in the Casino Barcelona and I asked him what Circuit I should do, and he said Lake Tahoe,” said Armand.

With a Frenchman for a father and an American mother, Armand is certainly a product of both worlds. He is bilingual and visits Europe for at least two months on the year. Armand’s father is retired, living in the South of France. His mother, sadly, passed away a couple years ago from cancer. Armand alluded to her notable prowess in the game of Bridge, and claimed that she was one of the reason he entered the world of poker. When asked about the grizzly bear figurine that accompanied him at the poker table, he gave a touching response.

“I use to call my mom ‘Mama Bear,’ so it’s to honor her,” said Armand. “I put the bear on my chip stack, that way she’s with me everywhere.”

This triumph for Armand is surely a suitable tribute to his Mama Bear. Along with the gold ring and \$12,181 payday, Armand has earned himself 50 points and an early lead in the Casino Champion race. He will look to continue his poker success at Harvey’s Lake Tahoe and make a run at the Global Casino Championship seat.

Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harvey’s Lake Tahoe series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em (30 Minute Levels) tournament attracted 145 players generating a \$43,500 prizepool. The top 15 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 Harvey’s Lake Tahoe series:

EVENT #1: Greg Armand defeated 145 players (\$365 NLHE 30 Minute Levels) for \$12,181

This was the first gold ring handed out at the Harvey’s Lake Tahoe series. Eleven more gold rings and Circuit titles are still to come.

All rings at the Harvey’s Lake Tahoe series are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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