

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harvey's Lake Tahoe
Stateline, Nevada
Event #9
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)
Total Entries: 281
Prize Pool: \$140,500
November 3, 2016**



Accomplishing Goals After a Long Road

Richard Fitzgerald won his first gold ring on Friday after a long career, including 19 Circuit cashes and eight final tables.

Stateline, Nevada (November 4, 2016) – The ninth ring event at Harvey's Lake Tahoe saw a warrior win his first Circuit title. Richard Fitzgerald earned his first gold ring by vanquishing a field of 281 players in Event #9: \$580 No-Limit Hold'em. This was a milestone achievement for the Construction Worker from South Dakota who invests in poker part time.

“I just play recreational, off and on, like the last ten years. I don't get to go to many Circuit events because of my job,” said Fitzgerald.

Even though Fitzgerald does not play poker year-round, he has established a healthy World Series of Poker resume nevertheless. Before this victory, Fitzgerald could attest to 19 cashes and eight final table appearances on the Circuit tour. Along with banking his biggest WSOP Cash to date, at \$33,720, Fitzgerald can finally say he captured the ultimate prize.

“I just felt like it was destiny that I was going to win tonight,” said Fitzgerald.

The assured feeling of fate may have stemmed from the recent loss of his father as well as his best friend. A win for them was simply in the cards. Fitzgerald played with grit and heart, boosting him to a validating victory, after a tough final table battle. His aspirations for the 12-event series are coming together beautifully.

“I made a goal that I was going to come out here and get three final tables and two rings, and I'm two final tables and one ring down,” stated Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald made the final table in Event #5 earlier in the week. There are three tournaments left, including the Main Event, for Fitzgerald to achieve his ambitions and he is more than happy to continue participating here at Harvey's Lake Tahoe. Fitzgerald was beaming with admiration for the dealers, and overall tournament staff after his personal triumph.

“Shout out to these guys. Like I said, this crew is terrific, spot on. They don't make mistakes and the dealers are the best in the world,” exclaimed Fitzgerald.

Event #9 was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harvey's Lake Tahoe series. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 281 players generating a \$140,500 prizepool. The top 30 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
EVENT #2: Julian Galvan defeated 73 players (\$365 PLO Re-Entry) for \$7,446
EVENT #3: David Cossio defeated 541 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$34,084
EVENT #4: Chad DeLanzo defeated 155 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$12,555
EVENT #5: Mark Threadgill defeated 97 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$8,729
EVENT #6: Robert Zarzycki defeated 187 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max) for \$15,428
EVENT #7: Dale Menghe defeated 158 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$12,798
EVENT #8: Matt Betti defeated 322 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$22,705
EVENT #9: Richard Fitzgerald defeated 281 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$33,720

This was the ninth gold ring handed out at the Harvey's Lake Tahoe series. Three 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.

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.

For additional information please contact:

Eric Lusch (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lusch.eric@gmail.com.