2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Horseshoe Southern Indiana
Elizabeth, Indiana
Event #7
No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack
Buy-In: $300 (+$65)
Total Entries: 415
Prize Pool: $124,500
October 5-6, 2016

Nate Bandy Goes Back-to-Back in Southern Indiana

Pro from Chattanooga wins Monster Stack event, second gold ring in three days

Elizabeth, Indiana (October 6, 2016) — Nate Bandy is going to run out of room on his fingers at this pace. Fresh off a victory in Event #5, Bandy defeated a big field of 415 players in Event #7 to claim his third-career gold ring and his second in three days. Bandy earned the top prize of $27,390 plus another 50 points, giving him the lead in both the Casino Champion race for this venue and the season-long race for seats in the Global Casino Championship.

"I'm pretty amped up," Bandy said in the moments after his win. "This is so cool. As we got down to 18 [players], I started thinking, 'Man, can I really do this? Back-to-back events?'"

The champ is 38 years old, and he's been playing poker professionally for less than a year. His previous careers included eight years of professional football, followed by an executive-level position in a large sports management company. In his sort stint as a poker pro, Bandy has already amassed more than $70,000 in tournament earnings along with those three rings. The final table of Event #5 kept him from entering Event #6, so this victory is a true back-to-back win.

With 27 players remaining, Bandy only had about five big blinds in his stack. By the time Day 1 ended with 23 survivors, though, he was third in chips and breathing down the necks of the two chipleaders. After the win, he gave some insight into his game plan entering Day 2. "I tried to find people I wanted to isolate myself against and people I wanted to avoid," he said. "There were a couple really good players at the table. Things just went my way."

Indeed, they did. About eight hours into the day, Bandy was heads-up against Michael Iacullo, though the former faced a significant chip disadvantage as the match began. That deficit was erased within the first few hands of the duel, though, and it took barely a half hour for Bandy to collect the remainder of his opponent's chips and seal the victory.