

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, Indiana

Event #8

Pot-Limit Omaha with \$100 Rebuys

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 104 (+ 629 rebuys/add-ons)

Prize Pool: \$94,100

October 6-7, 2016



One for the Thumb; Robert Hankins Wins Fifth Gold Ring

Nashville poker pro joins elite company on the Circuit's all-time list

Elizabeth, Indiana (October 7, 2016) — Robert Hankins is the champion of Event #8 at Horseshoe Southern Indiana, defeating a field of 104 players to win his fifth gold ring. Hankins also earned the top prize of \$28,230 and 50 points toward the race for seats in the Global Casino Championship.

The champ is a 28-year-old professional poker player from Nashville, Tennessee. He also has a part-time job as the father to two children, ages six and seven. "I try to be a good dad," he said. "Any other time, it's poker time. I don't really have a social life outside of poker." Hankins has been playing the game as his profession since about 2010, when he lost a lucrative job at Bridgestone.

"Four days before Christmas, they laid us all off," he said. "I waited around thinking I was going to get my job back, and I started playing poker. I was getting an unemployment check — \$220 a week with two new kids. Poker saved me; it helped me be able to support my family."

Hankins has amassed more than a half-million dollars in WSOP and WSOP Circuit earnings since, and this victory makes him one of only 13 players with at least five rings. He's on a bit of a heater in Southern Indiana, in particular, racking up three final tables over the course of the last seven days. He now has 95 points on the Casino Champion leaderboard, putting him just five points behind leader Nate Bandy.

Day 1 went well for the eventual champion, and he ended play second chips with four players remaining. Defending champion Ben Beighle was the first to fall on Day 2, then Kevin Iacofano, leaving Hankins heads up against Matthew Humphrey. "All of those guys are great PLO players," Hankins said of his fellow Day 2 competitors. "I had to take a small-ball approach and try to trap them. I knew they would try to run me over. As long as my hands held up, I could capitalize on that. I was trying to hit a home run."

