

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Horseshoe Southern Indiana
Elizabeth, Indiana
Event #11
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 119
Prize Pool: \$35,700
October 9-10, 2016**



S.J. Van Dalsen Snags Penultimate Ring in Southern Indiana

Indiana local turns paid vacation time into Circuit success story

Elizabeth, Indiana (October 12, 2016) — Stephen Van Dalsen II, better known as “S.J.,” is the champion of Event #11 at Horseshoe Southern Indiana, defeating a field of 119 players to win his first gold ring. Van Dalsen also earned the top prize of \$10,710 and 50 points toward the race for seats in the Global Casino Championship.

Residing in Denver, Indiana, Van Dalsen is a 49-year-old plant manager at a local orthopedic manufacturing company. “Complete hobby,” he said regarding poker, though he’s already found some good success in his limited opportunities. Van Dalsen’s secular career means he doesn’t have much time to play tournaments, in particular, but he manages to carve out a few weeks every year. “I save up all my vacation and just travel around and play poker,” he said with a big smile.

The champ grew up playing poker, as he explained in his postgame interview: “Most kids play Old Mad and Gin. We took on poker as a family and grew up with that. My sister and I used to play heads-up a lot — stud and draw, you know, nobody knew what hold’em was.”

Van Dalsen eventually found hold’em and a more serious poker habit through a colleague. “One of the guys I used to work with had a bowling alley basement game,” he remembered. “So I started playing bowling alley basement poker.” Though that game was “mostly hold’em,” as he said, the game that really drew Van Dalsen’s interest was Omaha Hi-Lo. He said he finished as the runner-up in a Pot-Limit Omaha Hi-Lo SCOOP event in 2010, and he cashed in the \$1,500 limit version of that game at this past summer’s WSOP, as well.

When asked about his plans for the rest of the Circuit season, Van Dalsen had the right answer. “Hammond,” he said. “All ten days.” The Circuit heads north to the outskirts of Chicago later this week, and Van Dalsen will be along for the ride.
