

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Potawatomi
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Event #11
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)
Total Entries: 170
Prize Pool: \$85,000
Feb. 12-13, 2016**



Kalpesh Shah Captures His First Gold Ring

Kalpesh Shah wins the 11th event of the series for \$22,950.

MILWAUKEE (February 13, 2017) -- Kalpesh Shah has picked up a gold ring on the final day of the Potawatomi series. He won Event #11: \$580 No-Limit Hold'em for \$22,950 and his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring. He finished the series with two cashes for a combined \$23,804 in tournament earnings.

"It's like a dream," said Shah about winning his first gold ring.

Shah came into Day 2 of the tournament 9th in chips out of the 14 remaining players. He said entering the day he was looking to ladder up a bit, but was mainly focused on getting to the top three, which is where the big money was.

"[I] was just trying to stay out of bad spots," said Shah.

Shah said he had a little gamble in him, but tried to focus on staying out of trouble and staying patient. Shah stuck to his game plan of staying patient and was able to weather a three-handed battle with Christopher Blik and Konstantin Mikhailov that lasted over two hours long. Blik finally hit the rail in 3rd place to leave Mikhailov and Shah playing heads up for the ring. Shah then sent Mikhailov to the rail in second place. Mikhailov's runner-up prize totaled \$14,183.

Part of the challenge of playing a long day of poker with only minimal breaks is fighting hunger. Players don't always have the opportunity to get a good meal in, and it can be tough to eat at the table when play is short-handed because of the constant action.

"I didn't eat all day. I was on a liquid diet until the dinner break," said Shah. "Here is the thing though, the most amazing thing I have done in my life is I fasted on just water for 30 days; it's for religious reasons. I could handle one day of fasting easily."

Shah compared fasting for 30 days to a marathon. Shah said it's not something you can just do, but it's something you can prepare for and eventually do with the right preparation. He said that he fasted for eight days [straight](#) four or five times in preparation for the 30-day fast.

Shah was born in Mumbai, India and lived there for three years before moving to the United States. He works as an independent futures and options trader in Hanover Park, Illinois. Lately Shah has been playing more poker to try to improve his game. He mostly plays cash [games](#) and small weekly tournaments, but tries to play the Hammond and Potawatomi poker series'.

Event #11 was the eleventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Potawatomi. The \$580 no-limit hold'em tournament attracted 170 players generating an \$85,000 prize pool. The top 18 players were paid.

Day 1 began Sunday at 3 p.m. and lasted 18 levels. Day 2 began Monday at 1 p.m. with 14 players remaining. The tournament ended at about 9:45 p.m. midway through Level 27.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Potawatomi twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry in 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 Potawatomi series:

EVENT #1: Ty Veras defeated 1,272 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$67,726
EVENT #2: Yousef Anbar defeated 235 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$29,371
EVENT #3: Winston Ackerman defeated 324 players (\$365 NLHE 30-minute) for \$22,842
EVENT #4: Leon Gao defeated 179 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,500
EVENT #5: Josh Reichard defeated 227 players (\$365 PLO) for \$17,021
EVENT #6: Travis Lauson defeated 247 players (\$365 NLHE 6 max) for \$19,639
EVENT #7: Eric Guth defeated 532 players (\$365 NLHE Monster) for \$34,310
EVENT #8: Nadya Magnus defeated 119 players (\$2,200 HR NLHE) for \$71,398
MAIN EVENT: Alex Aqel defeated 677 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$208,138
EVENT #10: Byron Ziebell defeated 266 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for 19,547
EVENT #11: Kalpesh Shah defeated 170 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$22,950

Nine of the 12 ring events are now complete at the Potawatomi Circuit series.

All rings at the Potawatomi series are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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