

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, Indiana

Event #7

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$1,000 (+125)

Total Entries: 149

Prize Pool: \$149,000

October 19-20, 2016



John McCoy Grabs First Ring in Event #7

Memphis car salesman makes the road trip north, wins tough \$1K event

Hammond, Indiana (October 21, 2016) —John McCoy is the champion of Event #7 at Horseshoe Hammond, defeating a field of 149 players to win the \$1,125 no-limit hold'em event. The victory is McCoy's first on the WSOP Circuit, earning him the top prize of \$41,720 and his first gold ring. He also collects 50 points in the race for seats in the season-ending Global Casino Championship.

McCoy is a 43-year-old car salesman from Memphis, Tennessee. He's married with three daughters and two grandchildren, so his real-life responsibilities mean that he only has time to pursue the game as a part-time hobby. "I have five car payments," he said with a laugh. McCoy is starting to accumulate some significant results of late, though. He's won nearly \$70,000 in tournament poker over the last two months, but this result is easily the largest on his stat sheet to date.

The champ is a man of faith, and his spirituality was the thread that ran throughout his postgame interview. "This is the last thing in the world I expected," McCoy said in the moments after his win. "But I had a lot of people praying for me, and I think it really made a difference. It's such a blessing," he added. "It didn't matter what I did today at the table, I'm telling you."

When asked to reflect on his own performance, McCoy was further reluctant to give himself much credit. "I got lucky," he said. "I was playing with better players, and I just got lucky." Truth be told, he put together quite an impressive two-day stretch of poker.

McCoy was, indeed, one of the more inexperienced players remaining when the field combined around a stacked final table, but the eventual champion held the chip lead entering Day 2. He relinquished that top spot for most of the day, though, choosing to bide his time and select his spots more carefully than his opponents. "I kind of let these other guys knock each other out," he said of his game plan.

