

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Horseshoe Tunica
Tunica, Mississippi
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 278
Prize Pool: \$83,500
January 24, 2017**



Russell Sullivan Achieves Milestone Victory

First career gold ring collected by Russell Sullivan after winning Event #8 at Horseshoe Tunica.

Tunica, Mississippi (January 25, 2017) – Russell Sullivan earned his first World Series of Poker gold ring in the wee hours of Wednesday morning at the Horseshoe Tunica Circuit stop. The 34-year-old from Columbia, South Carolina conquered a field of 278 entrants in Event #8: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em 30 Minute Levels One Re-Entry to win \$20,018.

Sullivan had come close to a debut gold ring about one year prior at a Harrah's Cherokee Circuit stop, in the Main Event no less. He fell only one spot short of the title. Finishing in second place, Sullivan did however score a huge, \$148,700 cash prize, significantly larger than his recent winnings.

"This means more to me than that big cash, honestly. This is the ring. This signifies I made it... Just an amazing feeling," Sullivan expressed.

August of 2015 marks Sullivan's original WSOP cash. The South Carolina native now has a total of 17 in-the-money finishes. When asked if he plays poker full-time, Sullivan gave a response.

"No, I own my own company, but this is semi-professional I guess," said Sullivan. "I go to as many [Circuits] as I can. I'm trying to qualify for the National and this put me over the top."

The Global Casino Championship will be held at the end of the 2016/17 WSOP Circuit tour and there are 50 at-large spots given to players who earn the most points during the season. With his recent triumph, Sullivan has 142.5 points, good for a top-five spot on the National Leaderboard.

It was no easy road to the top for Sullivan. When play reached the final table, even though Sullivan had a sizable chip lead over most his competition, he was weary of one opponent in particular, Jake "The Snake" Reeser. The two eventually squared off in heads-up action.

"The hardest person I did not want to be heads up with was Jake. He was tough as can be," explained Sullivan. "We were about even in chips and I got a little bit of an advantage on him after he said he misread his hand. From there I just couldn't lose, won every pot after that."

When the last card hit the table and it was all over, Sullivan could not contain his excitement. An air of relief and happiness surrounded him. The husband, and father of two mentioned how he harnesses the presence of his family when playing poker, a tactic that certainly aided in his milestone victory.

“I got two kids and a beautiful wife that support me. I just called her and she’s as happy can be,” Sullivan said with a grin. “I feel so much at ease when they are here; makes playing so much easier when I can go back to the hotel and see my kids and my wife.”

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Horseshoe Tunica series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em 30 Minute Levels One Re-Entry tournament attracted 278 players generating a \$83,500 prizepool. The top 30 players were paid.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Circuits twelve combined gold ring events earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into 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 Horseshoe Tunica series:

EVENT #1: Jeffrey Noblecourt defeated 218 players (\$365 NLHE One Re-Entry) for \$16,350
EVENT #2: Juan Rodriguez defeated 119 players (\$365 PLO Re-Entry) for \$10,709
EVENT #3: Alex Burney defeated 1,253 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$66,723
EVENT #4: David Knuckles defeated 240 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo Re-Entry) for \$17,997
EVENT #5: Jeter Brock defeated 181 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,118
EVENT #6: Brian Peery defeated 249 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max One Re-Entry) for \$19,793
EVENT #7: John Holley defeated 193 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$15,056
EVENT #8: Russell Sullivan defeated 278 players (\$365 NLHE 30 Minute Levels) for \$20,018

This was the eighth gold ring handed out at the Horseshoe Tunica series. Four more gold rings and Circuit titles are still to come.

All rings at the Horseshoe Tunica series are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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