

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

The Bicycle Hotel and Casino

Bell Gardens, Ca.

Event #12

No-Limit Hold'em High Roller

Buy-In: \$3,000 (+\$250)

Total Entries: 214

Prize Pool: \$387,000

December 12-13, 2016



Jesse Yaginuma Wins Bike High Roller

WSOP Circuit at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino wraps up with Jesse Yaginuma winning first ring and \$108,345.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (December 13, 2016) — Jesse Yaginuma busted out of the WSOP Circuit main event at the Bicycle Casino late on Day 2, in 19th place, just shy of a final table and a shot at a six-figure score.

Yaginuma still got that six-figure score, just in a different event at the same stop by winning the \$3,3250 no-limit hold'em high roller event. He topped a record-setting field of 129 entries, the biggest high roller field since they were re-introduced to the Circuit, to win his first ring and \$108,345.

“It feels great,” said Yaginuma. “It’s always fun to win a poker tournament. You don’t get very many chances no matter how much you play, especially in live poker. So it feels great to win.”

After busting out of the main event, Yaginuma made the decision to enter the high roller with just a couple hours left in the day. In those few hours of play on Day 1, Yaginuma went from a starting stack to the chip lead.

He came into the second and final day with a huge chip lead and basically went wire-to-wire, only relinquishing that lead for a few brief moments, and he was never short on chips. Once they got to the final table, he had regained the chip lead and he never lost it again en route to a victory.

“I wasn’t sure if I was actually going to play,” said Yaginuma about how he was feeling after he busted from the main event. “I ran really good last night and continued to run really good today. Sometimes, that’s all it takes.”

As with most high rollers, the higher buy-in brought out some of the most talented players around, making Yaginuma’s dominating performance all that more impressive. Yaginuma emerged victorious from a final table that included bracelet winners Mike Leah and Barry Hutter, ring winner Ben Palmer, and top pros Joe Serock and Matthew Wantman.

Wantman was the last person standing between Yaginuma and a victory. But after not even an hour of heads-up play, Yaginuma won a flip with king-queen against pocket threes to send Wantman home with a runner-up finish and secure himself a win.

Along with the money and the ring, Yaginuma earned 50 points and towards a seat in the Global Casino Championship. With Alex Massman and Nikhil Gera locking up the two guaranteed spots from this stop with a Casino Champion title and main event win, respectively, Yaginuma will need to use these points to qualify for the tournament through an at-large bid.

This was the last of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$3,250 no-limit hold'em high roller event attracted 129 entries. The total prize pool came to \$387,000 and the top 15 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Monday, December 12 at 2 p.m. and wrapped up around midnight. They all bagged up and came back at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13 at 1 p.m. to play down to a winner. There were 40 players at the start of the day and the final table was reached around 5:30 p.m. The final hand of the tournament was dealt around 11:00 p.m, making the total duration of the finale about five and a half hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Hotel and Casino:

EVENT #1: Alex Massman defeated 242 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,795
EVENT #2: Jerry Rojas defeated 171 players (\$365 NLH Bounty) for \$9,230
EVENT #3: TJ Thondup defeated 1,245 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$77,300
EVENT #4: Greg Sanchez defeated 122 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,245
EVENT #5: Sohale Khalili defeated 109 players (\$580 NLH) for \$16,345
EVENT #6: Eugene Ji defated 101 players (\$365 Omaha Hi-Lo) for \$9,080
EVENT #7: Maxwell Lineberger defeated 169 players (\$365 NLH) for \$13,675
EVENT #8: Martin Ryan defeated 115 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$34,510
EVENT #9: Robert Zarzycki defated 217 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$16,280
EVENT #10: Chris Burleson defeated 214 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,050
EVENT #11: Nikhil Gera defeated 842 players (\$1,675 NLH Main Event) for \$246,295
EVENT #12: Jesse Yaginuma defeated 129 players (\$3,250 NLH High Roller) for \$108,345

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bike's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 60 expected at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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