

## **2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 13**

**Palm Beach Kennel Club**

**West Palm Beach, Fla.**

**Event #12**

**No-Limit Hold'em**

**Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)**

**Total Entries: 167**

**Prize Pool: \$50,100**

**February 19-20, 2017**



## **Number Nine For Maurice Hawkins**

**Hawkins wins final event at Palm Beach Kennel Club to tie all-time rings record**

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 20, 2017)** — In the conversation about the greatest players in the WSOP Circuit's 13-year history, it'd be hard to make a good argument against Maurice Hawkins. On Monday afternoon, Hawkins won a ring for the ninth time in his career, tying Alex Masek for the Circuit's all-time record. Hawkins' seven-figure earnings set him apart, though, along with his three Main Event titles — three more than Masek.

There are plenty of other things that set the two apart, as well.

Although Hawkins and Masek share the current record with nine rings apiece, the two could not be more dissimilar. Masek is a quiet, unassuming young L.A. grinder without much interest in the spotlight that comes with playing in some of the world's largest tournaments. Hawkins is far from quiet, and he's most in his element when the lights are on and the cameras are rolling.

Maybe it's his football background, or his disciplined upbringing, or the realities of having a family to support. Whatever it is, Hawkins seems to thrive in the heat of competition, and he's unafraid to put his mouth where his money is. His temperament makes him a polarizing figure at the tables, but he's entirely unconcerned about that.

"I'm a good dude," he said during a candid postgame conversation. "Most people are pompous assholes. And I really don't give a damn if they like me or not. We're from two different places. I'm not taking anything from them, but I've earned everything I've gotten in my life. If they don't like me, they can really kiss my ass. I would rather be under-respected and overpaid than over-respected and underpaid."

Hawkins straddles the confidence/arrogance line with great finesse, and he tempered his words a bit as he continued. "People didn't like (Charles) Barkley on the court. People didn't like Dennis Rodman on the court. I'm not here to be your friend on the felt. Now if I catch you at a bar, it'll be a different scenario, you know?"



