

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Horseshoe Council Bluffs
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 175
Prize Pool: \$52,500
March 30-31, 2017**



Rod Novotny Wins the Opening Event at Council Bluffs

Rod Novotny comes away as the victor after a quick Day 2.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (March 31, 2017) -- The first event of the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series is complete after a speedy Day 2. At the beginning of Day 2 Rod Novotny was fifth in chips out of the six remaining players. Less than two hours later he was a [World Series of Poker](#) Circuit Champion. His prize amounted to \$14,176, 50 Casino Championship points and his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring.

"It's nice; I have wanted [a WSOP ring]. I've been coming here for five years and have come close a couple of times," said Novotny.

This was Novotny's fourth career WSOP cash and they have all come at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. Prior to this win, he recorded a 9th place and 10th place finish 2014, and a 16th place finish in 2015.

Novotny doesn't play lot of poker anymore, but tries to make it to this Circuit series every year to play in an event or two. He said that he used to play a lot more often, but it's harder to find the time now. He hopes to get back this series to play in another event. Until then, it's time to enjoy the victory.

"I'll probably go home and have a couple of Bud Lights," said Novotny.

To earn the victory, Novotny had to overcome Mike Lang's Day 2 chip lead. Lang has found a lot of success at Horseshoe Council Bluffs over the past couple years, but a gold ring has evaded him. He finished in 3rd place in last year's Council Bluffs Main Event and 2nd place the year before. He started Day 2 with the chip lead and in good shape to win his first gold ring, but ran out of luck early and finished in 3rd place. Novotny took advantage of Lang's misfortune and went on to beat David Battani heads up.

Novotny is from Clarkson, Nebraska and works for Omaha Steaks.

Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 No-Limit [Hold'em](#) tournament attracted 175 players generating a \$52,500 prize pool. The top 18 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at noon and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with six players remaining. The tournament ended at about 3:40 p.m. on the last hand of Level 23.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Horseshoe Council Bluffs 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 Horseshoe Council Bluffs series:

EVENT #1: Rod Novotny defeated 175 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,176

With one tournament wrapped up, 11 more ring events remain at the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series.

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

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