

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Horseshoe Council Bluffs
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Event #2
No-Limit Hold'em Bounty
Buy-In: \$200 + \$100 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 151
Prize Pool: \$30,200 + \$15,100
March 30-31, 2017**



Kennii Nguyen Collects the Last Bounty

Kennii Nguyen collects 19 \$100 bounties on his way to his second gold ring victory.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (March 31, 2017) -- Kennii Nguyen has just won the second ring event at the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series. He defeated a 151-player field in Event #2: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty to earn the first place prize money of \$8,154 and his second career WSOP Circuit gold ring. In addition, Nguyen said that he collected 19 bounties over the course of the tournament to add another \$1,900 to his payday.

This was Nguyen's second career WSOP victory. Last season on the Circuit, Nguyen won a pot-limit omaha event at the Horseshoe Hammond Circuit stop for his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring. The victory was a huge breakthrough for Nguyen, who had come so close to WSOP gold many times before without winning. Prior to his victory at Hammond, Nguyen had reached five WSOP final tables. Of the five, four were Circuit final tables and one was at the series in Las Vegas. The one in Las Vegas was a big one. In 2012, Nguyen finished runner-up in a 2,302-player \$1,500 no-limit hold'em event for \$347,036. It was a huge cash, but did not bring Nguyen the victory he was looking for. Now after several years of being shut out from WSOP gold, Nguyen has two gold rings.

"Don't give up. If you love the game, don't give up," said Nguyen. "I almost give up a couple of times, but I didn't give up. So many close calls, I got third, third, third, third, second, so many close calls. So many bad beats, but hey, that's part of the game. If there is no bad beat involved, all the good hands hold up, ain't nobody playing anymore. It's like a chess game then. If you love the game, don't give up."

Nguyen doesn't spend as much time at the poker table as he used to. Instead, he prefers to spend more time with his family. When Nguyen does play, he prefers pot-limit omaha cash games. He said that the hold'em tournaments have gotten so tough over the years, but that makes this victory today in Iowa even better.

Another thing that made this victory even better for Nguyen was that he was able to share it with his wife, Ngoc. Ngoc was on the rail watching the final table from beginning to end and supporting Nguyen. The victory came at a time that served as a birthday present for both Nguyen and his wife. Nguyen's birthday is less than a week away and his wife's was a just a couple days ago.

Nguyen plans to celebrate the victory by enjoying a meal at the casino's steakhouse. Then it's back to the felt tomorrow for the series' multi-flight re-entry event.

Event #2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty tournament attracted 151 players generating a \$30,200 prize pool and \$15,100 bounty pool. The top 18 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 5 p.m. and lasted 15 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with 18 players remaining. The tournament ended at about 7:30 p.m. at the beginning 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

EVENT #2: Kennii Nguyen defeated 151 players (\$365 NLHE Bounty) for \$8,154

With two tournaments wrapped up, 10 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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