

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Horseshoe Council Bluffs
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 344
Prize Pool: \$103,200
April 5-6, 2017**



Tyree Johnson Ships the Monster Stack

Minnesota poker dealer, Tyree Johnson, wins his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (April 6, 2017) -- Tyree Johnson outlasted a 344-player monster stack field and came back from a 10 big blind stack at the final table to win his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring. Along with the ring, came the top prize money of \$23,737.

"I'm feeling good. It's been a long time coming. I have been playing about eight years and it's like my 5th [WSOP] event I have played," said Johnson.

Johnson has a strong WSOP resume for having this being only his fifth event. This marked his third career WSOP cash. His first career WSOP cash came this summer at the 47th Annual World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. He finished in 251st place out of 21,613 players in the Colossus II. His other cash was a min-cash at the Rio Circuit from earlier this season.

"It was a great experience," said Johnson about playing in the Colossus II. "I went pretty deep in that one, but not as deep as I wanted."

Johnson is going to forgo the Colossus this year and instead look to play in "The Marathon", which is one of the 2017 World Series of Poker's new events. The event features 100-minute levels and starts players off with a 26,200 chip stack.

After starting Day 2 in the middle of the pack with a chip stack of over 20 big blinds, Johnson arrived to the unofficial final table of 10 players with just 10 big blinds and sat 7th in chips out of the 10 remaining players. Johnson had an uphill battle ahead of him with some of the Circuit's best standing in his way. The final table featured five gold ring winners, including the all-time gold ring co-leader Maurice Hawkins, who has nine gold rings. The other gold ring winners were Zach Smith (1 ring), Jovan Sudar (2), Mark Fink (4), and Maxwell Young (1). Johnson said he was in his comfort zone and that he was never worried while being down to his final 10 big blinds. He just put his focus into finding good spots.

"I kept telling myself, just get it in good," said Johnson.

Johnson successfully executed getting his chips into the middle in good spots several times. Johnson's stack grew and he rode the momentum to victory. After a long final table, he defeated Smith in brief heads up battle. Smith had to settle for the runner-up prize of \$14,674.

Johnson said his celebration will include some Patrón, but then it's back to Minnesota for work on Sunday. Johnson, originally from Chicago, now lives in Minnesota and is a poker dealer at Canterbury Park.

"I work four days, play three," said Johnson.

Johnson strictly plays tournaments and said that he hopes to make playing the WSOP Circuit a more regular occurrence.

"You will see me again," said Johnson. "This won't be the last one."

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack tournament attracted 344 players generating a \$103,200 prize pool. The top 36 players were paid.

Day 1 began Wednesday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Thursday at 2 p.m. with 24 players remaining. The tournament ended at about 11:15 p.m. at the start of Level 31.

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
EVENT #3: Josh Reichard defeated 646 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$39,731
EVENT #4: Brandon Fish defeated 197 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$15,366
EVENT #5: Charlie Nguyen defeated 180 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,582
EVENT #6: Michael Hahn defeated 198 players (\$365 NLHE 6-Handed) for \$16,334
EVENT #7: Scott Sharpe defeated 111 players (\$365 O8) for \$9,989
EVENT #8: Tyree Johnson defeated 344 players (\$365 NLHE Monster) for \$23,737

With eight tournaments wrapped up, only four 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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For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at ijhanson13@gmail.com.