

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 13  
Horseshoe Council Bluffs  
Council Bluffs, Iowa  
Event #9  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$1,000 (+\$125)  
Total Entries: 77  
Prize Pool: \$77,000  
April 6-7, 2017**



## **Blair Hinkle Wins His Fourth Council Bluffs Gold Ring**

**Blair Hinkle rides a big Day 2 chip lead to his fourth career Council Bluffs Circuit gold ring.**

**COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (April 8, 2017)** -- Blair Hinkle has done it again. He is a World Series of Poker Circuit champion for the fourth time at the Horseshoe in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Hinkle won Event #9: \$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em on Friday to earn his fourth career WSOP Circuit gold ring and the top prize of \$26,181.

Hinkle is seasoned pro with many poker accomplishments, including winning a gold bracelet in 2008 for over a half million dollars. One of his most unique accomplishments is that he won the Horseshoe Council Bluffs Main Event three times in the span of four seasons. He holds the record for being the only player in Circuit history to win the same Main Event three times, in fact only two other players have ever won three total Circuit Main Events - Maurice Hawkins and Chris Ferguson. Hinkle also holds the record being the only player in Circuit history to win the same Main Event in back-to-back years after he won the 2013 and 2014 Main Events here.

"I just run really good here. I don't know what it is," said Hinkle. "Yesterday I got it in really bad when I was short stacked. Ace-Jack, versus queens, versus eights and when they flipped up their hands I was worried it would be like ace-king and jacks. I was like, I can win this hand easy, and then I just turned the ace. That is what got everything started. This is what happens in Council Bluffs. I run too good here, I don't lose all-ins."

Just because Hinkle runs good here, does not mean the victory came easy for him. Day 2 began with three players remaining and Hinkle had about 70% of the chips in play. His two opponents were gold ring winners Charlie Nguyen and Richard Fitzgerald and they were about equal in chips.

"Pressure, pressure, pressure was the plan," said Hinkle about his strategy heading into Day 2.

The only move to start the day was all-in or fold. He hoped that since Nguyen and Fitzgerald were close to even in chips and that there was a \$6,000 payout jump, they would fold too many hands and play for the pay jump.

"Unfortunately, they didn't fold as much as I would have liked," said Hinkle. "Once I doubled one up, it changed the whole game plan."

Once play got deeper, play moved away from all-in or fold. Hinkle felt that despite having his lead cut into, he was in more control and that the deeper stacks benefited his game the most. Nguyen ended up busting in 3rd place for \$10,663 and eventually Fitzgerald fell in 2nd place for \$16,198.

The victory marked Hinkle's first career non-Main Event gold ring and pushed his career WSOP tournament earnings over the \$1.4 million mark.

Hinkle intends to play a full schedule of gold bracelet events this summer at the Rio.

"I always love the Monster Stack and the Millionaire Maker," said Hinkle.

Another event that Hinkle is really looking forward to is the Tag Team event. He plans on teaming up with fellow poker pro and college roommate James Mackey. They played together in last year's tag team event, but failed to cash.

"I was the one who busted us out, so I need to redeem myself this year in the tag team," said Hinkle.

Hinkle has 23 WSOP cashes and eight WSOP Circuit cashes. Five of Hinkle's Circuit cashes have come here at Horseshoe Council Bluffs.

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Event #9 was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 77 players generating a \$77,000 prize pool. The top eight players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 1 p.m. with three players remaining. The tournament ended at about 2:50 p.m. at the start of Level 24.

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](http://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  
EVENT #9: Blair Hinkle defeated 77 players (\$1,125 NLHE) for \$26,181

With nine tournaments wrapped up, only three 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.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](#) or check out [WSOP.com](#).

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