

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 13  
Horseshoe Council Bluffs  
Council Bluffs, Iowa  
Event #10  
No-Limit Hold'em MAIN EVENT  
Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)  
Total Entries: 271  
Prize Pool: \$406,500  
April 7-10, 2017**



## **Maurice Hawkins Wins Record-Breaking 10th Gold Ring**

**Maurice Hawkins wins back-to-back Horseshoe Council Bluffs Main Events.**

**COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (April 10, 2017)** -- Maurice Hawkins has won the 2017 Horseshoe Council Bluffs Main Event for \$97,561 and his record-breaking 10th career WSOP Circuit gold ring. Hawkins, a pro poker player from West Palm Beach, Florida, has won six gold rings in the past two seasons on the Circuit to storm up the all-time gold rings leaderboard and take the sole lead for the most gold rings won all-time.

Hawkins amazing run to the top started last year here at Council Bluffs when he went back-to-back, winning the series' monster stack event and then the Main Event for rings number five and six. He followed up his two rings in Council Bluffs with a Main Event victory at Harrah's Cherokee just two weeks later for ring number seven. Hawkins defeated a 1,008-player field in Cherokee to earn \$279,722, which is his largest WSOP cash of his career. The 2015/2016 Circuit season ended with Hawkins only two gold rings behind the all-time leader, Alex Masek.

The 2016/2017 season began and Hawkins picked up right where he left off the prior season. He won two gold rings in his hometown of West Palm Beach, Florida. He won the Palm Beach Kennel Club Main Event in November of 2016 for ring number eight and then tied the record this February by winning his 9th career gold ring in a Palm Beach Kennel Club \$365 no-limit hold'em gold ring event.

Now just seven weeks before the end of the 2016/2017 season, Hawkins owns sole possession of the record with 10 WSOP Circuit gold rings.

The all-time gold ring record is not the only record Hawkins broke Monday at the Horseshoe. He became the first player in the history of the Circuit to win four Circuit Main Events. Prior to this win, he was tied with Blair Hinkle and Chris Ferguson with three career WSOP Circuit Main Event wins. With this win, Hawkins also matched Hinkle as the only player to ever win the same Circuit stop two years in a row. Hinkle accomplished the feat in 2013 and 2014 here in Council Bluffs.

Hawkins' Circuit resume consists of the most gold rings all-time, most Circuit Main Event victories, and over \$1.1 million in Circuit tournament earnings.

“Women and men lie, numbers don’t,” said Hawkins when asked if he is the greatest WSOP Circuit player of all-time.

Hawkins plays poker to support himself and his family. Rings and accolades have always been second to earning money for his family.

“I don’t play for accolades. I play for money, to eat,” said Hawkins. “I love [accolades], but I really play to eat.”

Hawkins came one spot shy of breaking the ring record two weeks ago at the Hard Rock Tulsa stop. He finished runner-up in a \$580 no-limit hold’em gold ring event to Sal DiCarlo.

“I didn’t realize the enormity of the situation, of the moment, until after I did not get the ring. Everybody was like, ‘Oh bro, that was number ten.’ Kevmath is Tweeting on the Internet, ‘Maurice Hawkins goes for number 10,’ everyone is talking about number 10,” said Hawkins.

After seeing the attention chasing ring number 10 was given, Hawkins felt he had messed up a real big opportunity at making Circuit history. He came straight from Tulsa to Iowa to play in the entire Horseshoe Council Bluffs series to give himself another crack at number 10. He grinded out the whole series and made two deep runs prior to the Main Event, but finished in 7th place both times.

“It’s mentally grueling” said Hawkins about grinding an entire series.

Hawkins grinded the series and played in nearly every event. He even played in satellites and won his seat to the Main Event through one of the mega satellites. The chase for 10 ended Monday when Hawkins was pushed the final pot of the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series.

The grind is still far from over for Hawkins. He is dedicated to putting in the time. He will be attending portions of the Harrah’s Cherokee and Harrah’s New Orleans Circuit series’ to close out the season and there is no doubt he will be looking for ring number 11.

-----

The Main Event was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$1,675 No-Limit Hold’em tournament attracted 271 players generating a \$406,500 prize pool. The top 30 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights. Flight A was on Friday and drew 122 players. Flight B began Saturday and drew 149 entries. Both starting flights played 15 40-minute levels on Day 1. Day 2 started Sunday at noon with 50 players remaining. Day 2 lasted 10 one-hour levels. Day 3 started Monday at noon with five players remaining. The tournament ended Monday at 1:10 p.m. with 50 minutes left in Level 27.

Josh Reichard won the Casino Championship. He final tabled three events over the course of the series, including winning the multi-flight re-entry event to earn 107.5 points. Reichard and Hawkins will head to Harrah’s Cherokee in early August to play in the 2017 Global Casino Championship and compete for part of the minimum \$1 million prizepool. The winner will earn a WSOP gold bracelet.

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  
MAIN EVENT: Maurice Hawkins defeated 271 players (\$1,675 MAIN) for \$97,561  
EVENT #11: Duane Gerleman defeated 139 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$11,675  
EVENT #12: Andrew Roberson defeated 164 players (\$365 NLHE 30-min.) for \$13,284

The 2017 Horseshoe Council Bluffs series is now complete.

All rings at the Horseshoe Council Bluffs series are furnished by [Jostens](http://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](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at [ijhanson13@gmail.com](mailto:ijhanson13@gmail.com).