

## **2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 13**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Event #1**

**Monster Stack**

**Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)**

**Total Entries: 411**

**Prize Pool: \$123,300**

**April 27-28, 2017**



## **Riding a Heater, Nick Verderamo Wins Opening Event**

**Local actuary starts the series with a big score, already eyeing up Casino Championship**

**BALTIMORE, Md. (Apr. 28, 2017)** — It's a story that's been written so many times in the history of the WSOP Circuit, it's almost not surprising anymore. Every so often, a player defends his title in a ring event or takes down the tournament they came tantalizingly close to winning the year prior.

Nick Verderamo is the most recent player to pull off that feat, conquering the series' opening event to claim his first ring and the top prize of \$27,126. His victory comes one year removed from a fourth-place finish in the same event and hot on the heels of a career-best score earlier in the week.

Verderamo is a 26-year-old actuary who lives here in the Baltimore area. He studied his trade at the University of Connecticut, graduating in 2012 and jumping straight into his field of expertise full-time. He's been playing poker his whole life, too, learning the game from his late grandfather as he was growing up.

The champ got off to a hot start in this event, running up a big stack early on. "I thought our table was pretty poor to start off," he said bluntly. "I stacked up to 200k in the very early levels, and then I just avoided confrontation with some of the better players and some of the bigger stacks. I was able to steal blinds and antes when I needed. I got the money in in good spots." That's precisely the recipe for success in tournament poker.

The 441-entry starting field was trimmed to 25 survivors over the course of Day 1, and Verderamo finished the day just inside the overnight top ten. By the time the final nine players combined around the final table on Day 2, he was second in chips and the only immediate threat to Kevin Elia's chip lead. Elia ran poorly from there on out, though, falling in fifth place and leaving a vacancy atop the leaderboard.

Verderamo stepped up to fill that spot, turning on the afterburners in the after-dinner levels. "I was on a heater the last 30-45 minutes," he said after the win. "Really, once we hit five-handed after the dinner break, I was on fire. I ran much better this time than I did earlier in the week." His final table run-good included beating pocket kings with ace-queen and cracking pocket aces with king-jack suited.

