

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

**Season 13**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Event #5**

**No-Limit Hold'em**

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

**Total Entries: 165**

**Prize Pool: \$49,500**

**May 2-3, 2017**



## **Roland Israelashvili Wins Fifth Ring**

**Georgian-American pro takes down \$365 event for \$13k and the jewelry**

**BALTIMORE, Md. (May 4, 2017)** — In the 13-year history of the WSOP Circuit, less than 20 players have won at least five times on the traveling tour. Roland Israelashvili added his name to the short list on Wednesday.

Israelashvili took down the \$365 no-limit hold'em event at Horseshoe Baltimore, outlasting a field of 165 entries to win his fifth gold ring. The victory was his eighth in-the-money finish this season, and this one earned him \$13,364 in cash.

The newest member of the five-time club is a 59-year-old Georgian-American pro who's spent the majority of his life in and around Queens, New York. His previous careers included open-wheel racing — he earned the nickname "Speedy" for that reason — and small business ownership, but he's been playing poker professionally since 2005.

In that time, Israelashvili has amassed close to \$3 million in live tournament earnings, including these five rings. He's also made three WSOP final tables, including a third-place finish in the 2012 Poker Players Championship, demonstrating his ability to play the eight-game mix at a world-class level. There's also that 37th-place finish in the 2005 WSOP Main Event on his record.

As far as poker tournaments go, this one went rather swimmingly for Israelashvili. After a productive day to that point, he entered the final table second in chips behind Kurt Jewell, a Kentucky pro who already has five Circuit victories on his record. "Kurt was tough," Israelashvili said in his postgame interviews. "He had a big rush."

With eight players left, though, Israelashvili took the chip in a double knockout pot in which his pocket tens won a flip against two sets of overcards. He was out-flopped by the player holding king-queen, but Israelashvili turned a set of tens to score the double knockout and catapult into the chip lead with six players remaining.

