

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

**Season 13**

**Harrah's New Orleans**

**New Orleans, La.**

**Event #10**

**The Main Event**

**Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)**

**Total Entries: 758**

**Prize Pool: \$1,137,000**

**May 19-22, 2017**



## **Jason Baldrige Wins Harrah's New Orleans Main Event!**

**Texas grinder gets bitten by tournament bug, breaks through early on the Circuit**

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (May 22, 2017)** — Jason Baldrige didn't have to wait very long at all for a breakthrough victory. Just a couple months into life as a part-time tournament poker player, Baldrige won the \$1,675 Main Event at Harrah's New Orleans, defeating a field of 758 entries to collect the season's last gold ring. It's just the second result on his tournament record, and it was worth \$227,412 in cash, along with one of the precious seats in the season ending WSOP Global Casino Championship.

Baldrige is a 34-year-old poker player from San Antonio, Texas. Born and raised in the Lone Star State, he graduated from St. Mary's University with a degree in Business Management, and he's been playing the game since. It's more about bankroll management than business management nowadays.

Like so many first-time winners, Baldrige is primarily a cash game player, but he sometimes tags along on his buddies' tournament trips. "I play cash games when I go to tournament spots, usually," he said. "I travel with Jose (Anaya) and I'll play some tournaments, but I never really took them seriously."

Anaya does take them seriously, though, and it was his run in the season-long points race that seems to be the thing that eventually grabbed Baldrige's attention. "Jose started getting points, and I was like, "Oh yeah, I want to do that," he said. "We've been coming to all these stops because Jose needs points."

Baldrige followed Anaya to Choctaw back in January and failed to post a result himself, despite building a big stack on Day 1 of the Main Event. Then it was on to Baltimore this spring where he endured a similar fate in the Main, falling at the end of Day 1. He did, however, make the final table of the Turbo event on the final day, where he finished in sixth place for a \$2,683 payday and a real, live tournament result.

Two weeks later, Baldrige was suddenly sitting at the final table of the Harrah's New Orleans Main Event — entering Day 3 as the chip leader, no less. Anaya was planted on the rail, nervous, along with their mutual poker friend John Alvarez. Baldrige didn't seem nervous at all.







