



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Horseshoe Hammond (Hammond, Ind.)	Date:	17 October 2017
Event:	H.O.R.S.E.	Entries:	120
Buy-in:	\$580	Prizepool:	\$60,000

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### JOHN MA EARNS 1<sup>ST</sup> WSOP GOLD RING

*Dedicated father and husband takes home gold in Hammond H.O.R.S.E. event.*

John Ma took down the solo, mix-game tournament at the World Series of Poker Circuit stop in Hammond, Indiana. The 44-year-old, and former poker pro, rode through 120 competitors in Event #6: \$580 H.O.R.S.E. to win \$18,001 and his first gold ring.

“It feels awesome. I just never would have imagined this happening,” Ma claimed on account of his dire situation going into the final day of the tournament.

“Coming into today, I was third lowest in chips,” explained Ma “I think the first four hands in Hold’em I was fortunate enough to double up every single hand. So, from there on, it just went pretty smoothly.”

Ma entered Day 2 with just two big blinds, an improbable position to come back from. However, with the help of some early doubles, he remained in the game and acquired some chips to play with.

From there, the Engineer went on to complete his 180-degree turnaround, reaching the unofficial final table with an overall chip lead. There was plenty of skill among the final nine players, including Ma’s own mix-game prowess.

“Prior to me working as an Engineer I was a full-time, cash professional player,” stated Ma. “I would only play high stakes, mixed games like H.O.R.S.E., so that was like my bread and butter.

Eventually, Ma went toe-to-toe with another mix-game specialist, Kenneth Po. The heads-up battle was hard fought, but Po had to settle for second place, a finish worth \$11,125. Ma's chip advantage and experience carried him to victory.

The triumph was a gratifying one for Ma, who left the poker scene when he and his wife began to start a family. His departure from the world of professional poker may have actually helped in his cause.

"Playing poker... periodically is actually more enjoyable. I feel I play better," said Ma

Although he does not grind out poker sessions for a living anymore, Ma has earned something to show for his time on the felt. A flashy, new piece of gold and memorable story will surely be tokens to share with his loved ones.

Ma still looks to player poker here and there, but puts his family first. The dedicated father and husband now lives in Hoffman Estates, Illinois with his wife. They have two children and are expecting another in May.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	John Ma	Age:	44
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Engineer
Birthplace:	Skokie, Ill.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Hoffman Estates, Ill.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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## DIRECT LINKS

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[JOHN MA'S OFFICIAL WSOP PLAYER PROFILE](#)

[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)