



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Horseshoe Hammond (Hammond, Ind.)	Date:	19 October 2017
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em	Entries:	139
Buy-in:	\$1,125	Prizepool:	\$139,000

RICHARD BAI WINS \$1,125 BUY-IN EVENT FOR 1ST RING

Local cash-game pro finds tournament success in Event #8.

Richard Bai took down Event #8 at the World Series of Poker Circuit stop at Horseshoe Hammond. The Chicago native defeated a field of 139 players in the \$1,125 buy-in, No-Limit Hold'em tournament to claim \$38,919 and his first career gold ring.

The competition took two days and 23 Levels of poker to reach a conclusion. Bai had the most successful Day 1 of any player. He finished off the first leg with a stack worth 239,000 and the overall chip lead.

Bai's advantage only heightened during Day 2 action. By the time unofficial final table was reached, the poker pro had nearly 600,000 in tournament chips.

"I mean, most of the time there were a lot of short stacks to my left, so I didn't really make any moves... I kind of had to sit back and just play my hand," Bai explained, alluding to his big-stack strategy.

Even with a strong lead, it was no easy road for Bai. There were five Circuit title holders still alive when the field was reduced to ten players.

The decorated competitors eventually hit the rail and it was Christopher Chiang who Bai found himself heads up against. Both players were striving to grab a debut gold ring. Chiang hung in for a while, but Bai was the one who ultimately accomplished the feat.

“It drew out longer than expected I think,” Bai recounted about the heads-up match. “I had the best hand twice, and didn’t win. Then, the last hand was just a flip and I flopped a set.”

The victory marks Bai's 19th WSOP cash and increases his earnings to right around \$150,000. Besides during the annual WSOP in Las Vegas and Chicago-area Circuit stop, Bai does not usually seek out tournament grinds.

“I don’t really play too many tournaments,” claimed Bai. “I love cash. That’s all I play. It’s been my bread and butter for a long time. I’ll probably never be a tournament player, but I do love playing them like once in a while.”

The young poker pro mostly makes a living in the cash-game scene, and has been since 2008. Though tournament poker is not his primary field of expertise, Bai showed that he still has what it takes to win.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Richard Bai	Age:	29
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	Chicago, Ill.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Chicago, Ill.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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