WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18
EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Harrah's New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)		Date:	15 May 2018
			Entries:	349
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Single Day		Prizepool:	$104,700
Buy-in:	$365			

VALENTIN VORNICU WINS RING NO. 12

Vornicu doesn't let his foot off the gas, winning back-to-back events and his record-extending 12th ring in the $365 no-limit hold'em single day.

When Valentin Vornicu was posing for his winner photo in the very early hours of Tuesday, he didn't know how to pose. Nobody had ever won 12 rings before and he was having trouble finding a pose to signify it.

He ended up going with a shoulder shrug because even Vornicu, a generally outspoken poker player, was at a loss for words.

Just a day after winning the opening event of the series for $64,205 and his 11th ring, Vornicu won the $365 no-limit hold'em single day event for his historic 12th ring. He defeated 349 entries to earn another $24,084 and extend his lead atop the all-time ring leaderboard.

"What is there to say?" said Vornicu after the win. "Right now, I'm just super tired and super happy. Also, is this real? Is this real?"

The significance of the 12th ring wasn't lost on the San Diego based grinder, but winning back-to-back events was just as special.

"I've never won back-to-back tournaments," said Vornicu. "Definitely not live. Maybe online, but usually after I win a tournament live, the next one I play I just bust before the first break."

Vornicu wasn't able to bust before the first break because he didn't show up until just before the second one. Instead of registering on time, Vornicu decided to sleep in and then spend some time at the gym before making his way to the poker table.

"I came in with like one level to go. One bullet again and quickly rose my stack," said Vornicu. "In one level I think I had four times the average. I think I had close to that the whole tournament."

Vornicu came into the final table with a massive chip lead and was the favorite from the start of it to take it down, but things weren't smooth sailing for him. He experienced a bunch of set backs early on and it took being on the right end of a cold deck against runner-up Joshua Lowing to get back in the lead for good.

"Once we got eight-handed, I lost like four or five all ins," said Vornicu. "I found myself as like one of the shortest stacks and all of a sudden, I was back to like ICMing because I was short again.

"When we were six-handed, I picked up a suited ace and made a flush and Josh made the second nut flush. Then from there on, I got the chip lead back more or less. I was back to my original game."

As mentioned after his first win on Sunday, Vornicu only made the trip to New Orleans for points to secure a spot in the Global Casino Championship. He's got plenty of those now and is out in the early lead for the Casino Championship title. A title that most fellow Circuit grinders want him to win.

"I think every grinder is rooting for me to win Casino Champion because then there is another spot opening up for points [in the 2018 GCC]," said Vornicu. "And the last five years, I usually get in by winning a main event or Casino Champion. Only once I got in with points."

As much as he loves the San Diego beaches, it doesn't seem like Vornicu has any plans of going home or letting up. With a six-max event on the schedule for Tuesday, he is anticipating being back at it as soon as he can.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Valentin Vornicu   Age: 34
Nationality: American   Profession: Professional Poker Player
Birthplace: Bucharest, Romania   WSOP Bracelets: 0
Current Residence: San Diego, CA   Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 11

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