



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Harrah's New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)	Date:	16 May 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Six-Max	Entries:	336
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$100,800

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### **BRENNAN BENGLIS WINS \$365 SIX-MAX**

*Benglis fulfills promise to late grandmother and 13-year goal of winning a major poker title with first ring.*

Three years ago, Brennan Benglis' grandmother passed away. Before she passed, the Lake Charles, LA native had been playing poker for about a decade and he told her that he was going to win a tournament for her.

He didn't get it done while she was still alive, but he got it done for her on Wednesday afternoon at Harrah's New Orleans. Benglis won his first ring in the \$365 no-limit hold'em six-max event. He defeated 336 entries and earned \$25,206, but it's more than just the money and the accolades for him.

It's about fulfilling a promise he made to his late grandmother.

"This means so much to me to just have that because even though I know she's not here, I know she's still with me," said Benglis.

The 33-year-old has been in the poker world grinding out a living as a dealer and a player for 13 years, but was diagnosed with ADHD earlier in life and had trouble focusing on certain tasks in both life and school.

Even though she's gone, it's his grandmother that gives him the inspiration to stay patient at the table and focus on every hand.

"The patience is for her," said Benglis. "It's so that I can survive and do it for her. Now, I can just relax. This is the ring and it's hers. Even though she's not here, she can see it. She's my inspiration. That's where the patience comes from. It's for her."

Family is a common theme in Benglis' life with his other source of inspiration coming from within his own bloodline. Benglis' two-year-old son, Theo, is what has changed his outlook on life and poker in general.

"The dynamic of just playing poker in general is different because every hand isn't for me to make money, to eat and to sleep, but it's for him. To put him in the best spot he can be in," said Benglis.

Benglis was one of the subjects of a book that chronicled the struggles of a few people that were diagnosed with ADHD and how they were able to overcome their struggles and succeed in different areas of life.

The book was written by Dale Archer, the father of a close friend of Benglis, who was actually the source of Benglis' love of poker.

"I think I started playing when I was 18," said Benglis. "My best friend's dad got 11<sup>th</sup> in the [WSOP] Main Event. He's the one who wrote that book. He got 11<sup>th</sup> when [Greg] Raymer won it all. We were there when we were 18 and we watched it all. A lot of cool things happened and watching him get that close to the Main Event Championship, I was like 'Dude, I want to do this.'"

Archer's run in the 2004 WSOP Main Event started the long journey of Benglis' poker career that was filled with ups and downs. Now, that he's got a win under his belt and a ring to add to his trophy case, he hopes that some advice that was given to him by a 10-time ring winner holds true.

"I've been trying since I was 21[to win a ring]," said Benglis. "I've been so close so many times. I've had the ring in my hands. A poker friend, Maurice Hawkins, told me that once you get the first, they start coming in waves."

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Brennan Benglis  
Nationality: American  
Birthplace: Lake Charles, LA  
Current Residence: Austin, TX

Age: 33  
Profession: Poker Dealer/Player  
WSOP Bracelets: 0  
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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