



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Seminole Casino (Coconut Creek, FL)	Date:	20 September 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack	Entries:	586
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$193,380

MITCHELL LEKARCZYK WINS \$400 MONSTER STACK

Engineer from Colorado wins first ring and \$40,619 at his first stop along his cross-country loop.

Mitchell Lekarczyk's first ring started out like a lot of other mid-20's professional poker players. He quit his job, started traveling the country and scored a five-figure payday and a Circuit title.

The only difference is that Lekarczyk isn't a professional poker player. The 26-year-old electrical engineer from Colorado quit his job and took a few months to drive around the country, play poker and visit friends.

One of his first few stops on his loop around the country brought him to South Florida and eventually the Seminole Casino in Coconut Creek. He defeated a 586-entry field and won the \$400 no-limit hold'em monster stack, earning \$40,619 and his first Circuit ring in the early hours of Friday morning.

"It's quite nice," said Lekarczyk. "It was a rush. \$40K and a ring, first place out of 586 [entries]. It feels pretty good."

Even with the score, Lekarczyk has no plans on playing poker full-time. He quit his job two months ago and already has another job lined up. He just plans on enjoying his trip, his time with friends and family and hopefully wins some money along the way.

"Florida is just the beginning," said Lekarczyk. "I went from Colorado to Oklahoma to Mississippi and Florida was the first destination where I actually visited friends instead of

just playing poker. Then I'm going up to New York City and then I'm going to make my way towards the West Coast."

Lekarczyk defeated Andrew Kaplan heads-up to earn his first piece of WSOP jewelry. After Ray Millard busted in third, Lekarczyk and Kaplan were nearly dead-even in chips at the start of their heads-up battle. One hand changed everything, however, where Lekarczyk flopped huge and turned gin.

"He slow played his queens and I had ace-five," said Lekarczyk. "So, if he raised, I probably would have called him anyway, but I flopped trip aces and came out firing and he called me. I bet again on the turn after I got a boat and he shipped into me, so that hand went real well."

That hand gave Lekarczyk a massive chip lead over Kaplan and the match ended shortly after. Despite the brevity of heads-up, Lekarczyk had nothing but respect for nearly all his opponents.

"It was a really solid final table overall," he said. "I only saw one guy punt his stack off, but everybody else was playing pretty solid poker."

With an extra five-figures to his bank account, a few months left on his road trip and plenty of stops remaining on this season's Circuit schedule, it's likely we get another glimpse of him at another stop.

"I haven't even looked yet," said Lekarczyk. "But of course."

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Mitchell Lekarczyk

Age: 26

Nationality: American

Profession: Engineer

Birthplace: Steamboat Springs, CO

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Current Residence: Steamboat Springs, CO

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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