WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18
EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop: Seminole Casino (Coconut Creek, FL)
Event: No-Limit Hold'em Turbo
Buy-in: $250

Date: 22 September 2018
Entries: 112
Prizepool: $22,400

WALLY MADDAH WINS $250 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

Tampa native wins first ring in his 100th career cash at a Seminole property.

Wally Maddah is one of Florida's most loyal grinders. The 55-year-old from Tampa plays all around the state, with most of his cashes coming at Seminole properties in Tampa, Hollywood and Coconut Creek.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Maddah cashed in a tournament for the 100th time at a Seminole property and he made it special. He took home his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring.

Maddah defeated 112 entries in the $250 no-limit hold'em turbo event, earning his first Circuit title and $6,721. He defeated Andre Bryan heads-up and defeated a tough final table that featured a six-time ring winner in Martin Ryan, who busted fourth and took over the Casino Championship lead.

"Oh my God. It's amazing," said Maddah after his win. "I don't have a ring because I don't play many Circuits. Probably two a year. It's just sweet. A ring and my 100th cash. Nobody has ever done that at the Seminole Hard Rock, so I'll be the first one to do that."

Before cards got in the air at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Maddah cashed in 50 events at the Seminole property in Tampa, 47 in Hollywood and twice in Coconut Creek. His third cash is one he'll remember forever.

Maddah's lack of Circuit success stems from his lack of desire to travel outside the state of Florida to play poker. All of his previous cashes on the Circuit came at venues within the state.

But most of his volume comes from tournaments in Tampa. Maddah, who according to his friend on the rail, plays on the snugger side of the spectrum, was able to adjust to the turbo structure thanks to his experience in events at his home casino in Tampa.

"He thinks I'm a nit, so that's okay. He can think that," joked Maddah while pointing to his friend on the rail. "But the structure was good. I liked it. I can adjust because I play a lot of turbos back home with 20-minute blinds, so I'm used to it and I can adjust to the structure."

As with any tournament win, you have to run pure and Maddah felt that the poker Gods were on his side throughout the final table.

"I was very short and I just picked my spots and I got lucky a couple times," said Maddah. "I got aces a couple times and kings in the right spots. I made the right calls and that's all it is."

Maddah won't have much time to rest on his laurels. After taking down his first ring, he has less than 12 hours to celebrate before he has to be back in the tournament area on Sunday afternoon to play Day 2 of the $1,700 no-limit hold'em main event.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Wally Maddah
Nationality: American
Birthplace: Tampa, FL
Current Residence: Tampa, FL

Age: 55
Profession: Self-Employed
WSOP Bracelets: 0
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

DIRECT LINKS

FULL RESULTS
MADDAH'S OFFICIAL WSOP PLAYER PROFILE
OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO