



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw Casino & Resort	Date:	1 November 2018
(Durant, OK)		Entries:	507
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Double	Prizepool:	\$101,400
Stack			
Buy-in:	\$250		

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### SCHUYLER THORNTON WINS \$250 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM DOUBLE STACK

*Veteran Texas grinder scores first WSOP ring and \$21,806.*

There is a running joke among some of the players who regularly frequent the tournament series at Choctaw. That Schuyler Thornton and Jason Gooch look scarily similar to each other. Some players call the two players 'Gooch' and Mini Gooch.'

After Thornton's performance on Thursday night, it might change to 'Thornton' and 'Mini Thornton.' Thornton won his first Circuit ring to open the WSOP Circuit series at Choctaw. The 29-year-old poker pro from Texas won the \$250 no-limit hold'em double stack event, defeating a 507-entry field and Jared Hemingway heads-up to win \$21,806.

"It's cool, man," said Thornton. "Getting hardware is always fun. No matter what stakes you're playing, being the last man standing is what you play for."

His win comes a year and a half after a huge summer at the World Series of Poker where Thornton finished sixth in the \$10,000 Dealers Choice Championship event and third in a \$1,500 no-limit hold'em.

Between two WSOP final tables and a ring, he may be able to get some notoriety and separate himself from his Gooch association, but Thornton kind of embraces it. The two talented, bearded poker players from Texas teamed up for the Tag Team event at the 2017 WSOP and are very good friends away from the table.

“Gooch is my boy. I like being associated with him,” said Thornton. “I think he’s a good dude.”

Besides, Thornton knows that there are communities within the broader poker world that know who he is and have never even heard of his counterpart.

“I think most people in the big mixed games in Vegas and stuff know who I am definitely don’t know who Gooch is,” said Thornton. “But I don’t care about fame. I don’t play poker for fame.”

That’s what separates Thornton, not just from Gooch, but from most players. He’s insanely well-rounded. He plays high-stakes mixed cash games and tournaments, as well as no-limit hold’em tournaments.

His results show that he can play at high-stakes in almost any game with almost anyone in the world. Having the skill to play with the best was something he needed to use in this event with such a stacked final table for just a \$250 buy-in tournament.

Three-handed, it was Thornton, Jared Hemingway and Bart Bogard. Bogard is a regular in the Midwest poker scene and made several Circuit final tables all over the Oklahoma, while Hemingway is another high-stakes pro that has a runner-up finish in a \$1,500 Omaha hi-lo event at the 2017 WSOP and finished fourth in this stop’s main event last year, which was eventually won by Dan Lowery.

“It was cool. It was a lot of fun,” said Thornton about playing short-handed with those two. “They’re good players, but they’re also good guys. There was no tanking. It was fun playing poker. A lot of the time, over the summer, you are playing with these European guys with headphones on that take a minute to make every decision. Where’s the fun in that? I’m trying to win, but I’m also here to have fun.”

The lack of tanking and the faster pace is just one of the few reasons Thornton will find himself playing mixed games more often than not.

“Absolutely. And everyone is just more lax,” said Thornton as he began to laugh about what was coming next. “This is funny, but I’m a bigger guy and playing seven-handed, it’s nice having some space.”

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Schuyler Thornton

Age: 29

Nationality: American

Profession: Professional Poker Player

Birthplace: Corpus Christi, TX

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Current Residence: Corpus Christi, TX

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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