



WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw Casino & Resort	Date:	5 November 2018
(Durant, OK)		Entries:	341
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em One-Day	Prizepool:	\$112,530
Buy-in:	\$400		

TRUNG PHAM WINS \$400 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM SINGLE-DAY

Exactly a year to the day after his first Circuit victory, Trung Pham rings in another birthday with another victory.

If anybody doubts that birthday luck is a real thing, Trung Pham would like to have a word with you. For the second consecutive year, Pham celebrated his birthday with a Circuit ring in Choctaw.

Last year at this exact stop, Pham celebrated his 32nd birthday with a victory in the \$365 multi-flight no-limit hold'em re-entry event. This year, he started the \$400 no-limit hold'em single-day as a 32-year-old, but since the tournament continued past midnight and the calendar turned to November 5, he won the tournament as a 33-year-old.

Pham came into the final table with nearly 40 percent of the chips in play and defeated Gary Coffman heads-up to polish off the 341-entry field and earn \$25,883.

"I've been running really bad, so I feel great winning my second ring," said Pham after his victory. "It's hard to win first-place in an event. You have to run good. You have to be lucky. It doesn't matter how good you are, you need luck to win the event."

Luck was something he had plenty of in Choctaw on Sunday afternoon, evening, and the early hours of Monday morning. With two tables remaining, Pham had about a third of the chips in play and went into the final table with just shy of half.

It wasn't a smooth ride to the finish line, but Pham weathered the bumps in the road and came out on top.

“Even though I had one-third of the chips in play with two tables left, it’s still hard to keep [the chips],” said Pham. “It’s hard to go through and go into the final table. When I got there, I had 40 percent of the chips in play and I lost a big hand and I was down to 10 percent of the chips in play. I don’t know. I’m really lucky to win.”

When the then 32-year-old won his first ring a year ago to the day, he had just left the family business to take on poker full-time. It’s been one year since he left running his family’s nail salon for a full-time grind on the felt, but the 12 months since paralleled his final table experience in his latest victory.

It was off to the races with a quick start, but hit a few bumps along the way and came out on the other side stronger.

“I’ve learned a lot over the past year playing poker,” he said. “The most important thing is money management. No matter how good you are, if you’re not good managing your money, you’re going to end up losing all your money. Not just in poker, but in other games. I’ve went through all that and learned all my lessons and I’m ready to go forward.”

The Texas native has won both of his rings at Choctaw. It’s not in his home state, but when asked if he has any advantage from playing at the Oklahoma casino, he was short and to the point.

“I feel very comfortable here.”

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Trung Pham

Nationality: Vietnamese

Birthplace: Vietnam

Current Residence: Temple, TX

Age: 33

Profession: Professional Poker Player

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 1

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