



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

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|---------------|---|------------|-----------------|
| Circuit Stop: | Choctaw Casino & Resort<br>(Durant, OK) | Date:      | 6 November 2018 |
| Event:        | No-Limit Hold'em                        | Entries:   | 140             |
| Buy-in:       | \$400                                   | Prizepool: | \$46,200        |

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### **CLAY HOFFMAN WINS \$400 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM**

*Texas businessman celebrates two decades of sobriety with his first Circuit victory and \$12,937.*

Just a week after celebrating two decades of sobriety, Clay Hoffman got to celebrate his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring. The business owner from Lubbock, TX defeated 140 entries to win \$12,937 in the \$400 no-limit hold'em at Choctaw Casino and Resort.

Aside from two decades away from alcohol, Hoffman also spent 15 years away from the felt. Five months ago, he made his return to the felt and immediately made his presence felt. He won a tournament at another series in Oklahoma for just shy of six-figures last August and then won a Circuit ring on Tuesday night.

"This one makes me feel better," said Hoffman. "It's not just a one-time thing. I can do it more than once. Plus, having a ring is really special."

A few years after quitting alcohol, Hoffman started a business. Between his business, the lack of access to online poker after Black Friday and the lack of places to play live poker in Lubbock, he decided to put poker on hold.

Ironically, it was because of his business that he rekindled his love of the game.

"I go to Vegas for a convention almost every year and I played poker there about five months ago," said Hoffman. "I enjoyed it a lot again and I'm financially in a situation where I've got time to play."

It's clear that Hoffman has talent on the felt, but he has some skill away from the felt as well. A few months prior to his victory at Choctaw, Hoffman just missed the cut on qualifying for the Senior U.S. Amateur open.

One of the added benefits of returning to poker was the uptick in his golf game. According to Hoffman, the focus he puts forth with every hand helps him focus on every shot on the golf course.

Poker rooms and golf courses are two places where alcohol is prevalent. It's not an issue for Hoffman. He feels no temptation and has only been encouraged to stay on the straight and narrow by the people he plays both games with.

"I tell everybody and they are all very, very supportive," said Hoffman. "I've not had anybody say anything negative at all. All the players are very supportive of that. Golfers are the same way."

Most players can point to a few big hands or a rush of cards that propelled them to victory at the final table. Hoffman, on the other hand, was just happy he continued to survive while being card dead.

"When we got down to two tables, I had five all ins preflop," said the 56-year-old. "I was a big favorite in three of them. One I was a minor favorite and one I was a minor underdog. I lost all five of them."

Hoffman, who started the final day second in chips, was able to weather the storm and get to the final table, where he was able to outlast the competition.

"The fact that I kept building my chips back up and didn't let it bother me was big," said Hoffman. "The best pair I got was jacks. I was just trying to read people and make the smart plays at the right time."

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Clay Hoffman  
Nationality: American  
Birthplace: Mobile, AL  
Current Residence: Lubbock, TX

Age: 56  
Profession: Entrepreneur  
WSOP Bracelets: 0  
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)