

WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop: Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell Date: 2 December 2018

Gardens, CA) Entries: 539

Event: No-Limit Hold'em Double Prizepool: \$177,870

Stack

Buy-in: \$400

CHRIS DEMACI WINS \$400 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM DOUBLE STACK

Southern California poker pro completes revitalization of his poker game with his first Circuit victory.

Chris DeMaci already had \$2 million in live tournament earnings. He was one of the most successful online tournament pros pre-Black Friday. He's played on poker's biggest stage with multiple final tables in WSOP bracelet events.

Live tournament wins had a habit of escaping the Southern California poker pro. That changed on Sunday night with a victory in the \$400 no-limit hold'em double stack event at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino.

DeMaci went wire-to-wire with the chip lead at the final table to best the 539-entry field and earn \$38,215 in what was his first WSOP victory and first Circuit ring.

"I've won a few online, but the live wins kind of eluded me," said DeMaci after his win. "It feels great. You accomplish the goal. There's nothing left to do. You won the prize and that's a great feeling. Even when you cash for a lot of money, you kind of still feel like you fell short."

The 36-year-old was never in danger of busting and was seemingly always in control of the final table. He was quite unlucky in some spots, but was able to mitigate that with chips won in non-showdown pots.

"I had a lot of good timing," said DeMaci. "All my bluffs got through. I don't think I got caught one time. That's partially because I've been working on my game and partially because I was on the right side of variance and running into the bottom of other people's ranges."

The work that he put into his game over the last several months yielded immediate results. Having gotten to near the top of the poker world at one point in his career, he got complacent. That resulted in some sub-par results over the last few years and he watched several other pros pass him by.

"I've been playing less the past few years, but also my results have been going down," said DeMaci. "I wasn't over poker, but I was really fed up with it. I felt like I wasn't getting what I deserved and that is a very bad feeling. You should never feel like that. Everybody knows poker owes nobody anything."

The year seems to be closing for him on a high note with a win in the first event of the series, but it wasn't that way until he made the decision to put the work in off the felt. 2018 was the first year he didn't play a full schedule at the Rio. He felt his game wasn't where it needed to be and wanted to make some changes before moving forward with his poker career.

"I knew that I wasn't working on my game and I knew that other people were," he said. "And I think that put me at a psychological disadvantage. And there were some personal things and some family things. You know, there is a lot that goes into poker besides your ability to play the cards. I kind of made up my mind after the World Series this year and started putting in a little work."

Once he started preparing for success, the success followed quickly. Just like he knew it would.

"I've been playing a couple tournaments here at the Bike and I've been telling my friends for months that I'm going to win," said DeMaci. "I've run terrible here and I've had a lot of opportunities. I knew this was going to happen."

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Chris DeMaci Age: 36

Nationality: American Profession: Professional Poker Player

Birthplace: Stanton, CA WSOP Bracelets: 0

Current Residence: Stanton, CA Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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