



WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell Gardens, CA)	Date:	5 December 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em	Entries:	91
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$30,030

BRIAN SNELL WINS \$400 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

Semi-retired golf pro proves detractors wrong with a Circuit ring and \$9,010

For Brian Snell, his victory in the early hours of Thursday morning was worth more to him than just the \$9,010 and his first Circuit ring. When he defeated Mihail Irodoi heads-up to come out on top of the 91-entry field, it was the culmination of years of hard work to his game.

After the win, the Hawaii native was choked up and needed to take a few minutes to get his thoughts together. In the end, he was just proud that he could prove some of his detractors wrong and that he could compete and play with some of the best in the region.

"I believed when other people didn't," said Snell after his victory. "It's very emotional. I beat a lot of players that are way better than me and it makes me proud. People close to me look at it as ... they don't understand, really. That it's a skill."

Snell worked in the golf industry for 15 years as a working pro. He worked full-time giving lessons, but cut back on his schedule and is more selective with who he takes on as a student. The golf world has plenty of gambling itself and that's where Snell started to cut his teeth on the felt.

"That's where I learned to play," said Snell. "I learned to play better, but not where I learned to play tournament poker. Those are the cash games. But honestly, I'm not the greatest cash player, so I look forward to tournaments only."

Over the last few years, Snell looked forward to the WSOP Circuit stops at the Bike and racked up a handful of cashes over the last few years at the venue. He steadily improved his

results over time. Last March, he finished eighth in the \$580 no-limit hold'em turbo and then improved on his first WSOP final table with a victory on Thursday morning.

While he got to the proverbial winner's circle for the first time, Snell stayed humble in victory. He may be improving as a player, but he knows how tough the competition is in Southern California and how much room he still has to grow as a player.

"I'm just overwhelmed as to how much skill is in the room every time I come to your tournaments," said Snell about the WSOP Circuit stops at the Bike. "I've been playing for a few years now and I finally made a splash. I'm just really happy and really proud."

Snell noted that he got lucky a couple times before the final table, but once he got to the final table, he was in control. There was no luck involved. If anything, he was unlucky at the final table. After getting all in with top pair on 10-high flop against Irodoi's pocket sevens, it looked as if the title was his.

Irodoi spiked a seven on the river, however, and the match continued on. Snell kept his composure, battled back, took the lead and finished off Irodoi about 45 minutes later. The comeback only makes his first taste of victory even sweeter.

"Yeah, that was brutal," said Snell about the hand in question. "That's another reason I'm so glad that I won because I didn't want that to stick with me. It's such a tough beat, you know?"

Snell enjoys tournaments because he 'Enjoys working towards a goal and not just towards every hand.' He's got a ring victory, so now it's time for him to start towards the next one.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Brian Snell

Nationality: American

Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA

Current Residence: Honolulu, HI

Age: N/A

Profession: Semi-Retired Golf Pro

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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