



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell Gardens, CA)	Date:	7 December 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em	Entries:	113
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$37,290

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### SOHALE KHALILI WINS \$400 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

*Just hours after jumping hopping in Sean Yu's winner photo, fellow LA grinder takes one of his own for his second Circuit title*

On Thursday evening, Sohale Khalili was in a winner photo. It wasn't his. He was in Sean Yu's winner photo after the fellow Los Angeles poker pro won his fifth ring in the \$400 HORSE.

Just hours later, less than two hours after the clock struck midnight and the calendar switched to Friday, they took another photo together, but swapped spots. This time it was Khalili holding the ring and Yu playing the role of supporter.

The 33-year-old won his second ring in the \$400 no-limit hold'em. He defeated a field of 113 entries and netted \$11,180 for his second Circuit title.

"It's been a strange coincidence," I transitioned from online to live like two to two and a half years ago and every deep run I have, Sean has been there. It's been crazy."

Since Khalili moved back to Southern California from Canada, he and Yu have become good friends. If one of them is at a live event, it's likely that the other isn't far away. Having one of the more successful players on the Circuit is constant motivation for Khalili to continue to succeed.

"He took a ring on my birthday two weeks ago," said Khalili. "And he dedicated it to me. Today, he won a ring and we were down to 20 left and I was like 'Damn, it would be real sick if I won a ring today too.' He sat and railed the whole time. Like three hours literally sitting at the table. It was definitely a little motivation."

The three hours that Yu sat near the table and sweated Khalili was about the duration of the heads-up match between Khalili and one of the more seasoned live tournament pros in the area, Jared Griener.

Griener and Khalili battled for several levels with multiple river cards changing the chip lead. After a swingy match, the two got the chips into the middle in a race situation. Griener flopped a lot of equity, but ultimately it was Khalili's night.

"It was a really tough final table and a really tough heads-up match," said Khalili. "I think we both got it in good a few times. I sucked out, he sucked out, and then at the end with the pocket fours against the five-six of diamonds. He flopped diamonds, but it just held up."

The swingy heads-up battle was the culmination of what has been a trend at this stop – a very tough final table lineup. Aside from battling Griener heads-up, Khalili needed to navigate his way through a final table that featured five-time ring winner Scott Stewart, bracelet winner Will Givens and another Southern California tournament regular, Sean Jazayeri.

It's Khalili's second title, but if a couple things had gone his way over the last few years, he could have many more. He has several runner-up and third-place finishes in Circuit events. When the chip lead was changing hands, it was hard for him not to think about yet another close call, but his history online allowed him to keep a level head and pull through.

"I used to be a heads-up player at high-stakes," said Khalili about his online career. "I kind of had some tricks up my sleeve, but it always lingers in my mind. It's good to get another first."

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Sohale Khalili	Age: 33
Nationality: American	Profession: Professional Poker Player
Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA	WSOP Bracelets: 0
Current Residence: Los Angeles, CA	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 1

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