



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw Casino & Resort (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	14 January 2019
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em	Entries:	202
Buy-in:	\$600	Prizepool:	\$104,030

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### CHAD SMITH TAKES HOME 1<sup>ST</sup> GOLD RING

*Business Owner seizes first gold ring, accomplishing what he narrowly missed last year.*

Chad Smith seized his first World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring on Monday at Choctaw Durant, a feat he narrowly missed out on last year in Tulsa. The 47-year-old topped 202 entrants in the last ring event of the series, Event #13: \$600 No-Limit Hold'em and was awarded \$27,048 along with the golden hardware.

The Business Owner from Plano, Texas has nine cashes, ten now, with the WSOP. His largest to date, by far, came in the Hard Rock Tulsa Circuit Main Event where Smith finished as the runner-up for \$133,349.

"Well clearly, the Main Event is the ring you want to win but winning your first ring is incredible," Smith responded when asked to compare the two accomplishments. "And I think having placed second there, I learned a lot that led me not to get too worried here," he continued.

Having the late-game experience from his Main Event run in Tulsa, Smith mentioned that he was more prepared, especially going into heads-up play.

Smith and Harry Arutyunyan were the two biggest stacks coming into Day 2 and going into the unofficial final table. So, it was fitting that the two players ultimately faced off for the Circuit title. Arutyunyan, owner of three gold rings, entered heads up with a solid chip advantage over Smith.

“We came in, he was three-to-one chip lead. [We] Went back and forth several times. I just was patient and waited for my moments and things turned out great,” Smith recapped.

In the end, Smith grabbed the momentum and scooped all the chips in play, leaving Arutyunyan just short of his fourth ring. It was a great win for Smith, who plays poker as a recreationally.

“I have a company and kids for a living, and this is my hobby,” Said Smith. “I play every event at Choctaw, then I’ll go to New Orleans, Tulsa, Cherokee, and then I’ll go to Vegas four, or five, times a year and play those.”

Smith is CEO of Clearwater Payments. The company deals in electronic bill payment presentment. The fun-loving poker player is also married with four children.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Chad Smith	Age:	47
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Business Owner
Birthplace:	Plano, Tex.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Plano, Tex.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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## DIRECT LINKS

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