



**2010-2011 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Seven
Horseshoe Hammond
Event #3 No-Limit Hold'em
End of Day Two
Buy-In: \$1,100
Total Entries: 202
Total Prize Pool: \$195,940
October 17, 2011**

THE ART OF WINNING

Math Tutor from Romania Gives a Lesson to Final Table and Scores First Ring.

Hammond, IN (October 18, 2011)—Staying true to the standard set by Horseshoe Hammond, attendance was up roughly 20 percent in this year's opening \$1,100 buy-in tournament. 202 players made their way into The Venue located on the second floor of the riverboat casino for a chance at the \$51,000 first prize.

The tournament attracted some of the Circuit's top brass, including Horseshoe Southern Indiana Main Event champion, Robert Castoire, 19-time WSOP casher, Josh Brikis and 2011 WSOPC ring winner, Benjamin Kramer. In all, the prizepool eclipsed \$195,000 and 21 spots were paid.

When the last card was dealt, 28-year-old Valentin Vornicu was the only player that remained. Vornicu beat the star-studded field to score his first WSOPC gold ring and largest in-the-money finish to date.

Vornicu was born in Romania and received his Masters degree in mathematics. As a child, he competed in math competitions and learned to use logic and deduction to work his way through problems. He says those same skills help him at the poker table.

Four years ago he moved to the States and now resides in San Diego, California where he works as a math tutor on a forum site, the Art of Problem Solving.

Vornicu teaches gifted children, children he calls the best of the best, online in the United States and he has hopes of starting a math summer camp. He took the week off from teaching to play in the Circuit. Somehow, I think his children will forgive him.

Like Vornicu's students, the final table assembled in Event 3 was truly the best of the best. Collectively, the players had seven Circuit rings, 16 final tables and almost 50 cashes.

"It was to be expected," Vortunicu said about the resume of the final table. "It's the \$1,100 event. You expect a lot of the field to be really good players."

Final Table:

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|---------|
| Seat 1 | Michael Souza | 487,000 |
| Seat 2 | Chad Hahn | 64,000 |
| Seat 3 | Mark Kroon | 340,000 |
| Seat 4 | Kyle Cartwright | 310,000 |
| Seat 5 | Pradeep Buddharaju | 90,000 |

| | | |
|--------|------------------|---------|
| Seat 6 | Valentin Vornicu | 665,000 |
| Seat 7 | Nachman Berlin | 140,000 |
| Seat 8 | Scott Schwalich | 368,000 |
| Seat 9 | Duy Tran | 564,000 |

First Place:

In 2002, Vornicu created a math website that was based on the idea of a math community and it caught on internationally. Shortly after, he joined his forum site with a U.S.-based site, artofproblemsolving.com. He packed up his things and moved to the States. The new partnership created the largest online math community in the world.

The idea behind the site is to offer online math coaching and tutoring to gifted children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to challenge their intellect due to where they live.

“If you’re in Los Angeles or a different large metropolitan area it’s easy to find somebody locally that’s really good at math,” Vornicu said. “If you’re in the middle of nowhere, there’s nobody you can see there locally. There’s a lot of smart kids that were lost before the internet age.”

Vornicu no longer works for the Art of Problem Solving full-time, but he does still teach online classes part-time.

Winner Interview:

“I’m so excited. I’ve been working for a while to get this. I feel really good. I hope I can keep going.”

“(The ring) means a lot to me. It’s a symbol of prestige, a symbol of, “Hey, this guy really knows how to play. He’s not just some random guy who did well. He’s actually proved it.” It’s a trophy. I’m so competitive. It doesn’t matter what I’m playing, if I win I’m very excited. The Series isn’t over. This is just Event 3. I’m looking forward to the rest of the Series. Hopefully I can collect a couple more rings.”

This is the third of 12 ring events slated to take place at the Horseshoe Hammond. Winners of all events will receive first-place prize money and the coveted WSOP Circuit ring. In addition, the winner of the Main Event will receive a seat to the \$1 million Circuit National Championship in Las Vegas. An additional seat will be awarded to the individual who earns the most Circuit points at this stop.

The WSOP Circuit Events at Horseshoe Hammond continue through October 24. The Main Event will take place October 21.

Each final table throughout the 2011/2012 Circuit tour will be streamed live at WSOP.com

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Final Results:

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>PLAYER</u> | <u>CITY / STATE / COUNTRY</u> | <u>CASH EARNED</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Valentin Vornicu | San Diego, CA, US | \$50,943 |
| 2 | Duy Tran | BRENTWOOD, TN, US | \$31,470 |
| 3 | Michael Souza | SAN DIEGO, CA, US | \$22,723 |
| 4 | Scott Schwalich | WEST CARROLLTON, OH, US | \$16,688 |
| 5 | Nachman Berlin | BROOKLYN, NY, US | \$12,468 |
| 6 | Mark Kroon | MADISON, WI, US | \$9,474 |
| 7 | Kyle Cartwright | BARTLETT, TN, US | \$7,318 |
| 8 | Chad Hahn | WESTFIELD, IN, US | \$5,747 |
| 9 | Pradeep Buddharaju | Houston, TX, US | \$4,585 |
| 10 | Jonathan Moseley | Woodstock, GA, US | \$3,717 |
| 11 | Walter Gleitsman | Schaumburg, IL, US | \$3,717 |
| 12 | Martin Warren | ROLLA, MO, US | \$3,717 |

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 13 | Edward Corrado | NAPLES, FL, US | \$3,061 |
| 14 | Aaron Steury | FORT WAYNE, IN, US | \$3,061 |
| 15 | David Holder | NORMAN, OK, US | \$3,061 |
| 16 | Matthew Griffis | Chicago, IL, US | \$2,559 |
| 17 | Niel Mittelman | LIBERTYVILLE, IL, US | \$2,559 |
| 18 | Steven Tabb | NEWTON, MA, US | \$2,559 |
| 19 | Christopher Moon | East Lansing, MI, US | \$2,171 |
| 20 | Brett Schwertley | OMAHA, NE, US | \$2,171 |
| 21 | Peter Chen | BARRINGTON, IL, US | \$2,171 |

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