



**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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