2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Horseshoe Hammond (Chicago)
Hammond, IN
Event #4
Pot-Limit Omaha (with $100 re-buys)
Buy-In $300 (+65)
Total Entries: 166
Prize Pool: $49,800
October 14-15 2012

Don Walsh Tops Pot-Limit Omaha Field, Earns First Gold Ring

Soccer Fan and Avid Poker Player from Park Ridge Captures Victory in his Best Game

Hammond, IN (October 15, 2012) — Don Walsh doesn't believe in superstition. He knows that in order to win in poker, the most important element is skill.

However, that didn't stop Walsh from wearing his "lucky shirt" today, which is a jersey of the soccer team known as the Chicago Fire. He also brought two supporters with him to the final table, who he called his good luck charms.

The shirt and the cheering section must have been the difference, because Walsh won what amounted to his first major poker tournament ever, conquering the $365 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha tournament (with re-buys), which was played at Horseshoe Hammond. He earned $38,046 in prize money, plus his first WSOP Circuit gold ring.

"This is great," Walsh said, as he was trading high-fives with his bother. "I really thought this was going to be my day and it turned out that way. It's a great feeling."

Walsh dominated the last four hours of play, after it appeared Scott Bohlman might run away with the title in a laugher. Bohlman was steamrolling over everyone, but then Walsh won a few big hands and seized the advantage, never looking back in what amounted to a final table played out in less than 100 total hands.

On the final hand, Walsh proved he could do not wrong. He had his opponent covered several times over, and decided to call an all-in bet on what amounted to a draw. Walsh caught one of his cards and ended up with three queens to win the tournament.

Walsh is a 31-year-old poker pro, who primarily plays cash games (Pot-Limit Omaha, of course) at Horseshoe Hammond. He also is an avid soccer fan. In fact, Walsh referees local soccer games several times a week. He also attends many local games.

No doubt, in this tournament, Walsh reached his goooooooooooaaaaaaaaaaaal.

The top-ten finishers were as follows:

1	Donald Walsh	PARK RIDGE	IL	US	$38,046.00
2	Peter Daher	CHICAGO, IL	IL	US	$23,511.00
3	Mike Leah	LAS VEGAS	NV	US	$16,923.00
4	Jeffrey Mcgee	BOWIE, MD	MD	US	$12,403.00
5	Oleg Badmayev	HOFFMAN ESTATES	IL	US	$9,251.00
6	Ngoc Nguyen	WICHITA	KS	US	$7,021.00
7	Michael Vallone	HILLIARD	OH	US	$5,419.00
8	Yossi Azulay	CHICAGO	IL	US	$4,251.00
9	Scott Bohlman	GLEN VIEW	IL	US	$3,390.00
10	Tyler Denson	NEW SMYRNA BEACH	FL	US	$2,746.00

Tournament Notes

- Day One lasted 14 hours and played from 166 starters down to 14 survivors.

- Ninth-place finisher Scott Bohlman dominated Day One, but endured a brutal second day. He arrived in the restart as chip leader among the final 14. But he went out in ninth place.

- Well-known Las Vegas poker pro Chad Brown cashed, finishing in 14th place.

- The final table raced by in less than three hours, one of the fastest sessions of the season.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Horseshoe Hammond's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title "Casino Champion" and shall receive automatic entry into the $1 Million 2012-13 WSOP Circuit National Championship. The qualifier will join the winner of the Horseshoe Hammond Main Event, who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for Horseshoe Hammond only) and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids to be awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at Horseshoe Hammond in Hammond, IN runs through October 22, 2012.

For more information on the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at @WSOP or check us out on WSOP.com.

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