



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Horseshoe Hammond (Chicago)
Hammond, IN
Event #6
Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$500 (+80)
Total Entries: 313
Prize Pool: \$156,500
October 16-17, 2012**

Jet-Setting Poker Pro Steve Barshak Wins Gold Ring

Costa Rican Resident Comes North and Wins First WSOP Circuit Title

Hammond, IN (October 17, 2012) – Steve Barshak (a.k.a. Stanislav Barshak) pretty much has the life of a young twenty-something poker pro.

He lives in an exotic foreign country where he has the freedom to play online poker. He travels around the world to major poker tournaments. And now, he's just added to a growing resume of poker accomplishments, which validates what is most certainly an unconventional career path.

Barshak won the \$580 buy-in Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em, held here at the Horseshoe Hammond, near Chicago. It was his first WSOP-related victory. Barshak collected \$39,123 in prize money and was awarded his first career gold ring, which the ultimate prize for winning a WSOP Circuit event.

“This is great,” Barshak said. When asked how he made it look so easy, Barshak simply shrugged and brushed off the question, saying “It's never easy. It's never as easy as it looks.”

For Barshak, this was just the latest in a series of victories. He won a title at the WCOOP, which is a premier online poker tournament. He also came in second in a WPT event held at Foxwoods. He's also final tabled and win several smaller events, mostly held online.

Barshak could not have imagined this would be his life when we graduated from college two years ago. After earning his degree in marketing and international business from the University of Illinois, Barshak came close to taking a job with an insurance company. But he decided to take a little time off just before launching into his new career, and then went through a period where taking the job would have likely meant a reduction in income.

Stoked with a growing bankroll and confidence, he decided to try and play poker full-time, which seems to be working out. Even a bump in the road like what happened on so-called “Black Friday” could no deter his commitment to the game. When it became increasingly difficult to play online inside the United States, Barshak simply packed his bags and heads south

for the Central American nation of Costa Rica. He now resides in the Pacific Ocean paradise village of Playas Del Coco.

It remains to be seen what the future will hold for Barshak. He will likely continue to play poker so long as this pays the bills and provides a lifestyle which is most certainly tough to match doing a conventional 9-5 job.

“I love what I'm doing,” Barshak said. “I've got it made – at least for now.”

The top-ten tournament finishers were as follows:

1	Stanislav Barshak	BUFFALO GROVE	IL	US	\$39,123.00
2	Gary Lindesmith	LOWELL	IN	US	\$24,176.00
3	Lloyd Mandel	FORT MYERS	FL	US	\$16,778.00
4	Matthew Wolfe	WINDSOR	ON	CA	\$11,786.00
5	Douglas Mackinnon	BUFFALO	NY	US	\$8,377.00
6	Jonathan Taylor	PHIL CAMPBELL	AL	US	\$6,024.00
7	Joel Casper	CHICAGO	IL	US	\$4,380.00
8	Mark Maletic	CANTON	MI	US	\$4,380.00
9	Boulos Estafanous	DARIEN	IL	US	\$3,222.00
10	Kathleen Roach	CHICAGO	IL	US	\$3,222.00

Tournament Notes

- Day One began with 313 starters. By the end of 14 hours of play, only 14 remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another two hours before the final table began.
- When the final table began, Barshak enjoyed a substantial chip lead – more than 2 to 1 over his closest threat. He was never in serious danger of elimination and maintained the chip lead from start to finish.
- The final hand pitted Barshak, with 3-3 against the runner Gary Lindesmith, with Q-J. Barshak's small pair held up, winning the tournament.
- Jonathan Taylor, who has won two gold rings so far this year (Biloxi and Bossier City) held the chip lead during the middle the tournament. He made it to the final table, but went out in sixth place.

- Gold Ring winner (Harrah's Rincon 2012) Corey Cutrell became the first player with three cashes here at Horseshoe Hammond. He finished 14th in this event.
- Matt Affleck, who finished 14th in the 2010 WSOP Main Event, which was good for half a million dollars, took 24th place.
- New Orleans poker pro Ashly Butler is one of the breakout stars of 2012. He won a gold ring earlier this season at IP Biloxi. Butler also cashed three times at the WSOP, including a third-place finish. He also final tabled an event at WSOP Europe a few weeks ago. Butler took 35th place.
- The final table went about five hours..

Through the conclusion of Event 6, Mike Leah (Toronto, Ontario – Canada) is still the leader in the Casino Champions race. He has 57.5 points. There's a logjam of players in second place, since all of the six gold ring winners have 50 points at present.

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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