



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
Harveys Lake Tahoe  
Stateline, NV  
Event #4  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In \$300 (+65)  
Total Entries: 651  
Prize Pool: \$195,300  
November 10-11, 2012**

## **Greg Guth Wins Largest Poker Tournament Ever Held in Northern Nevada**

***Attorney Tops Record-Smashing 651-Player Field and Collects \$40,029***

### ***Guth Wins Gold Ring in First WSOP Circuit Attempt***

**Stateline, Nevada (November 11, 2012)** – No tournament ever held anywhere in Northern Nevada topped the record-smashing field that turned out for the latest World Series of Poker Circuit event, played at Harveys Lake Tahoe.

That's a pretty amazing statistic given the big numbers from the poker boom days (2004-2007), when sell outs were the norm just about everywhere. But no single event ever held either in Reno or Lake Tahoe has ever reached the high plateau set in the latest gold ring event, which was a \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em competition (Event 4).

Despite heavy snowfall the opening two days, poker players flooded into Stateline, Nevada in record numbers, smashing the old record by a sizable number. At the close of registration, Event 4 officially had 651 entrants for the two-session field. The previous record was set nearly eight years ago back in 2005, during the inaugural WSOP Circuit season – which was 542 players. A tournament held at the Grand Sierra in Reno has close to 600 players a few years ago. But the new record now belongs to the WSOP Circuit and Harveys Lake Tahoe.

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Topping the record field size was Gregory Guth, a 38-year-old attorney from Yuba City, CA. Remarkably, this was the first major poker tournament Guth has ever entered. He sure picked the right event to earn a debut victory.

Guth pocketed the handsome sum of \$40,029 for first place. He was also presented with the coveted WSOP Circuit gold ring, the ultimate token of achievement for winning such an event.

Guth demonstrated tournament sophistication far beyond his experience in this tournament. He arrived at the final table with a big chip lead and was never in serious jeopardy of elimination. In fact, he held onto the chip lead the entire way. Guth credited his good fortune to his poker-playing buddies back in Yuba City.

“I play in a home game, and we always talk poker,” Guth said afterward. “I was eager to come here and test my skills, and well – look what happened.”

Guth was cheered to victory by family members who were sitting in the audience and watching proudly. He defeated the most experienced Yossi Azulay, from Chicago in heads-up play.

The tournament went into an unscheduled third day, due to the huge field size and larger number of chips in play than was expected. The finale ended at 8 pm on Monday night. A total of 31 playing hours were necessary to complete the tournament from start to finish.

“I want to savor this victory for a while,” Guth replied when asked if he plans to play in more WSOP Circuit events in the future. “One step at a time.”

Guth works as an attorney in general litigation. He earned his undergraduate degree from Cal-Berkeley. Guth graduated from law school at UCLA.

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The top-nine (final table) finishers were as follows:

1	Gregory Guth	YUBA CITY	CA	US	\$40,029.00
2	Yossi Azulay	CHICAGO	IL	US	\$24,774.00
3	Drew Caseri	MERCED	CA	US	\$18,171.00
4	Robert Mather	NORTH HIGHLANDS	CA	US	\$13,513.00
5	Jeffrey Fielder	FRANKLIN	TN	US	\$10,185.00
6	Richard Gonzalez	FREMONT	CA	US	\$7,779.00
7	La Sengphet	CARROLLTON	TX	US	\$6,019.00
8	Loni Harwood	STATEN ISLAND	NY	US	\$4,718.00
9	Richard Lehman	BILLINGS	MT	US	\$3,746.00

## Tournament Notes

- This was the fourth (of 12) events at the Harveys Lake Tahoe series.
- This was the largest tournament ever held at Harveys Lake Tahoe, in Stateline, or anywhere in Northern Nevada. At 651 entrants, this eclipsed the old mark of 542 entrants, set in 2005. The number also surpassed any of the events held previously in Reno.
- The tournament included two starting sessions – designated at 4-A and 4-B. The first session started at noon. The second session began at 5 pm. Players in each session played for about eight hours. Players that were eliminated from the first session were eligible to re-enter into the second.
- Day One began with 651 entries. By the end of two eight-hour sessions of play at 2:30 am, only 106 remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another nine hours before the final table session began.
- When the final table began, Greg Guth was the chip leader. He ended up with the victory.
- There were only two gold ring winners at the final table and both were female. La Sengphet, a three-time winner and Loni Harwood, a one-time winner were the only title-holding finalists. Sengphet ended up going out in seventh place. Harwood went out eighth.
- The third-place finisher deserves special mention. Drew Caseri finished second in this same event played last year. He almost conquered a combined field over the past two years totaling more than 1,000 players – a remarkable back-to-back accomplishment.
- Mark “Bonsai” Bonsack cashed for the third time in just four events. He's the first player to reach that mark here at Lake Tahoe. Bonsack went out 11<sup>th</sup>, which now gives him and 11<sup>th</sup>, a 10<sup>th</sup>, and a 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The final table went about five hours, which is about the average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events.

With his victory, Guth jumped into serious contention the Casino Champion race for the Harveys Lake Tahoe series, with 50 points. At present (through four events completed), David Gilmer leads all players with 52.5 points.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Lake Tahoe'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 \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (Nov. 18-20), who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in gold ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for Lake Tahoe events 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.

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The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at Harveys Lake Tahoe runs through November 20, 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.

For additional information, please contact:

Nolan Dalla (WSOP Media Director) at: [nolandalla@gmail.com](mailto:nolandalla@gmail.com)