



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Bicycle Casino
Bell Gardens, CA
Event #8
Omaha High-Low Split
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 177
Prize Pool: \$53,100
January 10-11, 2013**

Stephen Gibbs Wins Omaha Championship

County Worker Prevails in Exciting Heads-Up Finale

Bell Gardens, CA (January 11, 2013) – Stephen Gibbs was put to the test on Friday night in what ultimately became a memorable first WSOP Circuit victory at The Bicycle Casino.

Gibbs ended up winning his first gold ring in what was also his first-ever cash in a WSOP-related tournament. Gibbs won the \$365 buy-in Omaha High-Low Split tournament, played over two consecutive days. He topped a field totaling 177 players. First place paid \$14,350.

But what is likely to be remembered from this final outcome was the extraordinary heads-up match between Gibbs and Larry Siegel, who ended up finishing second. The duo played nearly four hours in a back and forth match that came close to producing one of the greatest comebacks in tournament history.

About two hours in the match, Gibbs had Siegel on the ropes, hanging on for dear life. Siegel was down to just a few chips and facing a 125 to 1 chip deficit. Defeat seemed inevitable. Then, Siegel went on a monster roll. He started scooping pots and over the next hour ran his stack up many times over, to the point where he actually seized the chip lead. In an extraordinary course of events that could have broken what's believed to be the record for biggest comeback in heads up play (set in 2001 at the Jack Binion World Poker Open when the winner overcame an 82 to 1 chip disadvantage), Siegel was primed to share the headline set on this night as Alexandru Masek won his sixth career gold ring just a few feet away.

However, Gibbs managed to reverse Siegel's momentum and ultimately defeated his stubborn opponent about 90 minutes later. By 3am, all the chips belonged to Gibbs – as did the gold ring.

Gibbs is a 44-year-old county government worker from Ontario, CA. He is married and has four children. Gibbs wore a Dallas Cowboys football jersey to the final table. Despite that, opponents seemed to respect his play. He also did something way out of character for someone donning Dallas Cowboys' gear. He actually won when it mattered most.

The final included some other notable names, including longtime professional gambler Marshall Ragir. He also made an impressive comeback, arriving at the final table with just 18,000 in chips (in contrast to the chip leader's 341,000). Ragir built his stack up and ended up finishing third, a remarkable accomplishment.

James Manning III made a deep run, coming in fourth. He was the only previous gold ring winner among the final nine.

Also among the finalists was Greg Dinkin, the author and spiritualist. He's best known for writing two books, including Amarillo Slim's biography. His other book is titled "The Poker M.B.A." Dinkin took fifth place.

The final table finishers were as follows:

- 1st: Stephen Gibbs – \$14,350
- 2nd: Larry Siegel – \$8,860
- 3rd: Marshall Ragir – \$6,380
- 4th: James Manning – \$4,675
- 5th: Greg Dinkin – \$3,485
- 6th: Dale Beaudoin – \$2,645
- 7th: Gioi Luong – \$2,040
- 8th: Tony Phan – \$1,600
- 9th: Michael Noori – \$1,280

Tournament Notes

- This was the eighth event of this year's WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino.
- Day One began with 177 starters for the noon start. By the end of ten hours of play, 31 remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another six hours before the final table session began.
- Larry Siegel finished as the runner up. This marked his first time to cash in a WSOP-related event.
- The final table included just one previous gold ring winner – Thomas Manning III.
- The final table went about eight hours, a longer than average time span of play for WSOP Circuit events.

As the eighth gold ring winner, Stephen Gibbs is now in serious contention for the Casino Champion race for The Bicycle Casino series. He has accumulated 50 points so far at The Bike.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in The Bike's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof. The

qualifier will join the winner of the \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (January 12-14), 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 The Bike 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.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino runs through January 14th, 2013.

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