



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, North Carolina
Event #6
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 434
Prize Pool: \$130,200
April 9-10, 2013**

Robert Russell Wins Sixth Event at Harrah's Cherokee

North Carolina's First-Ever WSOP Circuit Stop Reaches Halfway Point

Mark “Pegasus” Smith Cashes – Now Second All-time

Cherokee, NC (April 10, 2013) – Robert Russell won the most recent World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring event, held at Harrah's Cherokee in North Carolina.

The 44-year-old self-professed “Chippendales Dancer” got a few laughs before the final table started by claiming a most unusual profession, but following his victory, Russell confessed the previous statement was not true, leaving some in a state of shock. In fact, Russell works as an environmental specialist, who handles recycling for a major company.

Russell recycled his tournament life several times during this event. At various points he was low on chips, but managed to survive each time and make a run at the chip lead. Patrick Keogan held the chip advantage most of the second day. But once the two players reached the heads-up stage, Russell took command and ended up making a comeback victory. Keogan, a business owner from Greenville, SC, finished as the runner-up.

Russell was paid the handsome sum of \$28,638 for finishing in first place. He was also presented with his first WSOP Circuit gold ring.

Also of note, Mark “Pegasus” Smith cashed in this event. With yet another cash on his resume, he now ranks second behind Doug “Rico” Carli for most career WSOP Circuit cashes.

The tournament generated a prize pool totaling \$130,200. The top 45 finishers collected prize money. The final table finishers were as follows:

1st	Robert Russell	Seymour, TN, US	\$28,638
2nd	Patrick Keogan	Elkhart, IN, US	\$17,701
3rd	Ryan Clark	Hurricane, WV, US	\$12,934
4th	Matthew Edge	Burlington, NC, US	\$9,604

5th	Andrew Hart	Taylors, SC, US	\$7,242
6th	Michael Teichman	Hudson, FL, US	\$5,543
7th	Randy Green	Gainesville, GA, US	\$4,304
8th	Marc Catalano	Long Creek, SC, US	\$3,390
9th	Michael Jukich	Arlington, VA, US	\$2,708

Tournament Notes

- The two-day tournament began with 434 players – a strong number for a Monday-Tuesday feature. After 14 hours of play on Day One, 26 survivors remained.
- There were 26 players that started Day Two. It took about four hours to play down to the final table of nine.
- The final table included no gold ring winners, which guaranteed a first-time champion.
- The final table lasted about five hours and ended at 11 pm.

Robert Russell picked up 50 player points for his victory. The top 45 finishers all received points. The player who accumulates the most overall points in Harrah's Cherokee'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 (April 12-15), 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 Harrah's Cherokee gold ring 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 Harrah's Cherokee runs through April 15, 2013.

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