

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, IN

Event #6

No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 330

Prize Pool: \$165,000

October 22-23, 2013



Ben Keeline Snags Unexpected Victory in \$580 Six-Handed

Recently unemployed restaurant worker stumbles upon \$41,426 payday.

Hammond, IN (October 23, 2013) — The Horseshoe Hammond Circuit wasn't in Ben Keeline's plans until a few days ago. Keeline, who was born in Oswego, IL, resides Glenwood Springs, CO and recently lost his restaurant job. He hadn't been to the Chicago area for more than a year so one of his friends used the incentive of some WSOP Circuit buy-ins to convince him to come catch up.

Keeline made the trip to Chicago and a nightly tournament win and a gold ring victory later he's lined the pockets of he and his childhood friend.

The 27-year-old amateur bested a 330-player field in Event 6, a \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed tournament, Wednesday night following a day and a half of play. The win earned him \$41,426, his first WSOP Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

"I'm not even supposed to be out here," Keeline admitted. "[My friend] helped me get out here and put me in some tournaments."

Keeline went on to explain had the restaurant he worked at not closed its doors he wouldn't have been able to get the time off to come to Chicago.

How's that for a timely exit?

Keeline made his way through the tough six-max field rather handily. The 330-player starting field narrowed to just eight following 21 levels of Day 1 play and Keeline bagged as the chip leader. He started Day 2 low on sleep, but retained his chip lead heading to the six-handed final table.

He donned gold less than four hours later.

Adding to the impressiveness of his feat, Keeline ran on only a few hours sleep on Day 2. His drivers license recently expired and he was up early Wednesday morning to take his drivers test.

“I was more nervous about my drivers test than the final table,” Keeline said. “I had hoped to get some sleep between that and the final table, but it didn’t happen.”

Keeline’s road to victory went through an in-the-money field that included Ross Bybee (36th), Sam Panzica (17th), Nicholas Blumenthal (16th) and Stephen Kats (11th). He outlasted a final table than saw Yossi Azulay finish 5th, Dash Dudley 3rd and Kenny Nguyen 2nd.

Nguyen narrowly missed the Casino Championship points lead, finishing one spot shy of the 50-point first-place finish he needed. He sits alone in second place in the 12-day race with 47.5 points.

Keeline was born in Oswego, IL and now resides in Glenwood Springs, CO. He works at a ski hill in the winters and likened his daily routine to living the dream – a dream that got a little sweeter Wednesday.

And, if you were wondering, he passed his drivers test.

Event 6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$580 No-Limit Hold’em Six-Handed tournament attracted 330 players generating a \$165,000 prize pool. The top 36 players were paid.

Day 1 began Tuesday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 started Wednesday at 2 p.m. with eight players remaining. The six-handed final table began shortly after 3 p.m. and concluded just before 7 p.m.

Notes on the Event

- Ben Keeline was a small stakes online player prior to black Friday. His WSOP resume was virtually non-existent before the Horseshoe Hammond series.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Hammond’s twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place at Caesars Atlantic City this spring.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion’s race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Hammond:

EVENT #1: Robert Georato defeated 2,496 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$110,471

EVENT #2: Mark Morris defeated 546 players (\$580 NLH) for \$57,327

EVENT #3: Michael Oshana defeated 465 players (\$365 NLH) for \$29,983

EVENT #4: Kevin Meeusen defeated 146 players (\$365 PLO with Re-Buys) for \$35,812

EVENT #5: Janchiv Enkhyam defeated 469 players (\$365 NLH) for \$30,250

EVENT #6: Ben Keeline defeated 330 players (\$580 NLH Six-Handed) for \$41,246

With the sixth tournament wrapped, six more ring events remain at Horseshoe Hammond.

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