

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 10
Choctaw Resort and Casino
Durant, OK
Event #2
Pot-Limit Omaha
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 254
Prize Pool: \$76,200
January 9-10, 2014**



Chris Benoy Prevails in Pot-Limit Omaha

Arlington amateur rides a hot streak to the winner's circle, earns first gold ring.

Durant, OK (January 10, 2014) — It took Chris Benoy just four hours to best the nine-handed finale in Event 2, a \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha tournament, at Choctaw Casino Resort Friday night. The win marked the first in-the-money finish at a WSOP event for the 41-year-old Arlington, TX resident and earned him \$18,667, a gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

The Event 2 final table played out alongside Event 1's finale and while Sean Stevens and Krzysztof Stybaniewicz were in the midst of a marathon heads-up battle at the table next to him, Benoy was on a heater. He worked his way through the final few opponents in no time and closed the door on his first gold ring well before Event 1 concluded.

"It's amazing," a giddy Benoy say after the win. "I'm very, very lucky and very glad. Everything went my way today. I cannot believe it."

Pot-Limit Omaha is a popular variation in the Dallas area and Benoy described the field he bested as one of the most talented he'd seen. Joining him in the money were gold ring winner Jason Mayfield (18th) and now 21-time WSOP casher Michael "MJ the Great" Cooper (ninth).

"I play with all these guys all the time back in Dallas," Benoy explained. "I was like, 'Can I really get through this (field)?"

Admittedly, it took some luck.

"Catching runner-runner clubs makes a brilliant player out of you. Shove it and catch," he laughed.

Benoy is self employed and resides in Arlington, TX. He proudly declared himself single and explained the \$18,667 in first-place prize money is an ample sum to "tee it up and play some more".

Needless to say, with a pocket full of cash and the freedom of being self-employed, this isn't the last Choctaw has seen of Benoy.

The Choctaw Resort Circuit series marks the first 12-day event of the new year. Action kicked off Friday at 12 p.m. with Event 1, a no-limit hold'em tournament. While Benoy's pot-limit Omaha tournament saw a slight decrease in attendance, the series opener drew a stout field of 533 – marking a more-than 10 percent increase in attendance over last year.

Despite the minimal drop attendance in Event 2, it marked one of the largest pot-limit Omaha tournaments of the Circuit season.

Event 2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha tournament attracted 254 players generating a \$76,200 prize pool. The top 27 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 5 p.m. and lasted 17 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with 18 players remaining. The nine-handed final table started at about 5 p.m. and concluded just after 10 p.m.

Notes on the Event

- The Choctaw Resort Circuit series marks the 12th of 22 events scheduled for the 2013/2014 season.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Choctaw Casino Resort's twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives 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 Choctaw Casino Resort:

EVENT #1: Sean Stevens defeated 533 players (\$365 NLH) for \$34,380

EVENT #2: Chris Benoy defeated 254 players (\$365 PLO) for \$18,667

With the second tournament wrapped, 10 more ring events remain at Choctaw Casino Resort.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com.

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