

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 10
Choctaw Resort and Casino
Durant, OK
Event #11
Main Event
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)
Total Entries: 1,428
Prize Pool: \$2,142,000
January 17-20, 2014**



Tyler Morris Wins Choctaw Main Event and \$369K

Series finale draws 1,428 entries, fourth largest Main Event in Circuit's 10-year history.

Durant, OK (January 21, 2014) — The latest champion on the World Series of Poker Circuit was crowned early Tuesday morning at Choctaw Casino in Durant, OK. Tyler Morris from Tyler, TX outlasted a field of 1,428 entries to win the \$1,675 Main Event – the fourth largest Main Event in Circuit history.

Morris was rewarded with a \$369,503 first prize as well as a Circuit ring and a seat in the season-ending WSOP National Championship.

"I started feeling good with five people to go," Morris said. "Everyone at the final table was so cool. It really helped out play and made decisions easy."

The final day of play began with 16 hopefuls returning to the felt with the dream of becoming the next Circuit champion. The field was whittled down to the final table rather quickly as players like start-of-Day-2 chip leader Nathanael Kogel hit the rail.

After more than two hours of nine-handed play, the final table saw its first casualty when Julie Walker fell from contention. Walker, the last woman standing in the field, lost a race when her pocket tens were outrun by ace-king. She busted ninth and collected a \$36,650 payday.

From there, Morris watched as players continued to fall. Circuit regular Michael Sanders was eliminated in eighth place and Jesse Capps followed him out the door in seventh. Two-time Circuit ring winner Joshua Evans was denied a third piece of jewelry, exiting the tournament sixth.

Jeff Gibraltar was looking not only for his second Circuit ring, but his second Main Event victory. Unfortunately for the 2012/2013 Bossier City Main Event champion, the dream would not come true in Durant. He was eliminated fifth and forced to settle for a \$97,204 prize.

From there, Preston Harwell was eliminated fourth and Clyde Walters third, leaving Penka and Morris to play for the top prize. Their heads up match lasted several hours with tension mounting with each all in, double up and the occasional chopped pot.

“We played the whole final table together so we were comfortable with each other’s play,” Morris said of Penka. “He was comfortable playing back at me, I was comfortable playing back at him. In the long run I got the best of him. He was a great player, that’s why he got second.”

Morris can now boast that he is the champion of one of the largest tournaments ever held on the Circuit. He outlasted a positively stacked field that drew the likes of bracelet winners David “ODB” Baker, Bryan Campanello, Larry Wright and Eric Baldwin.

The \$369,503 first prize won’t only come in handy for the professional’s bankroll, but for the young daughter he and his wife are expecting in the coming months.

The Main Event was the icing on the cake for what was a tremendously successful series at Choctaw Casino. The 12-day festival opened almost two weeks ago with a \$365 no-limit hold’em re-entry event that drew 2,867 entries, making it the second-largest tournament in the Circuit’s 10-year history.

That event, won by the eventual Casino Champion, Chris Bowen (also a Tyler, TX resident), awarded a first prize of \$122,567.

With that tournament in its rearview, the Choctaw series wrapped up Tuesday morning when the last card hit the felt and just one of the 1,428 Main Event entries remained.

The Main Event was the 11th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$1,675 No-Limit Hold’em tournament attracted 1,428 entries generating a \$2,142,000 prize pool. The top 153 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday and Saturday at 12 p.m. and playing 15 levels a piece. Friday’s flight boasted 597 entries and advanced 111 while Saturday’s flight boasted 831 and advanced 183.

Day 2 began Sunday at 12 p.m. with 294 players and it took three levels to reach the money. Play wrapped following Level 26.

Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. with 16 players remaining. The final table began 2:15 p.m. and concluded at 2 a.m. making the duration of the finale just under 12 hours (including a one-hour dinner break).

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

(NOTE: final table blinds began at 25,000/50,000 with a 5,000 ante)

Seat 1: Joshua Evans – 4,030,000
Seat 2: Clyde Walters – 1,160,000
Seat 3: Julie Walker – 2,325,000
Seat 4: Shelby Penka – 2,800,000
Seat 5: Tyler Morris – 2,000,000
Seat 6: Jesse Capps – 2,755,000
Seat 7: Jeff Gibraltar – 4,240,000
Seat 8: Michael Sanders – 3,080,000

Seat 9: Preston Harwell – 6,175,000

About the final table:

1st: Tyler Morris - \$369,503
Hometown: Tyler, TX
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$8,813

2nd: Shelby Penka - \$229,194
Hometown: Grapevine, TX
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$3,991

3rd: Clyde Walters - \$167,954
Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK
Occupation: Chief Financial Officer
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

4th: Preston Harwell - \$127,685
Hometown: Houston, TX
Occupation: Landman
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

5th: Jeff Gibraltar - \$97,204
Hometown: Rockwall, TX
Occupation: Sales/Profession poker player
WSOP earnings: \$150,135
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$244,401

6th: Josh Evans - \$74,863
Hometown: Las Vegas, NV
WSOP earnings: \$733,895
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$320,107

7th: Jesse Capps - \$58,327
Hometown: Las Vegas, NV
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$2,377
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$13,164

8th: Michael Sanders - \$45,967
Hometown: Seattle, WA
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$15,169
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$292,974

9th: Julie Walker - \$36,650

Hometown: Choctaw, OK
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

Notes on the Event

- The 1,428-entry field marks the fourth largest Main Event in the Circuit's 10-year history.
- Each of the top four finishers pocketed six-figures starting with a fourth-place prize of \$127,685 and ramping up to a \$369,503 first prize. The fifth-place finisher received just under six figures – \$97,204
- The field was the second-largest of the 12-day Choctaw series behind Event 3, a \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry tournament that drew 2,867 entries.
- Both the defending Choctaw Main Event winner, Jeff Fielder, and the defending Choctaw Casino Champion, Andrew Robinson, made Day 2 of the event but finished short of the money.

The title of Casino Champion went to Chris Bowen of Tyler, TX. Bowen, who recorded first and fifth-place finishes, earned 75 points and took the honors over Dylan Easley by just 2.5 points.

All players who cashed in ring events receive points that applied 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
EVENT #3: Chris Bowen defeated 2,867 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$122,567
EVENT #4: Jacob McFarland defeated 483 players (\$365 One-Day NLH) for \$31,159
EVENT #5: Ryan Van Sanford defeated 388 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,732
EVENT #6: Ivan Primera defeated 396 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$28,512
EVENT #7: Jed Hoffman defeated 257 players (\$365 NLH) for \$18,888
EVENT #8: Jeremy Downing defeated 364 players (\$365 NLH) for \$24,017
EVENT #9: Dylan Easley defeated 262 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,258
EVENT #10: Charles Tonne defeated 389 players (\$365 One-Day NLH) for \$42,787
EVENT #11 (The Main Event): Tyler Morris defeated 1,428 entries (\$1,675 NLH) for \$369,503
EVENT #12: Cody Brinn defeated 427 players (\$365 NLH) for \$28,186

With the Main Event wrapped, ring events at Choctaw Casino Resort have concluded.

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

For additional information please contact:

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