

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, FL

Event #1

No Limit Hold'em Re-Entry \$1 Million Guarantee

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

Total Entries: 2,531

Prize Pool: \$1,265,500

February 5-10, 2014



Fourth WSOP Circuit Ring For Maurice Hawkins

Largest career score for Hawkins, \$183,498

West Palm Beach, FL (February 10, 2014) — Maurice Hawkins picked up the largest score of his poker career today, winning \$183,498. He also collected his fourth WSOP Circuit ring in one of the biggest events of the season. He defeated local poker dealer Juan Restrepo heads-up, overcoming a 2:1 chip lead in the process. Restrepo earned \$114,224 for second place.

It was a great event for Hawkins to win too, as he triumphed in one of the largest fields of the season to take one of the biggest paydays outside of the Circuit Main Events. The \$580 buy-in opening event at the Palm Beach Kennel Club Circuit series boasted a \$1 million guarantee that the site, once again, easily surpassed thanks to a grand total of 2,531 entries and a prize pool of \$1,265,500.

It all started six days ago with the first of five starting flights. Hawkins played Flight A and at the end of the day was second in chips behind six-time WSOP Circuit ring winner Ari Engel. He then had three days off before Day 2 began on Sunday. The five starting flights over four days drew a total of 2,531 entrants, only 318 of whom made it to Day 2. By the time the fifth and final starting session wrapped, Hawkins ended up sixth overall in chips.

When they reached the final table late on Day 2, Hawkins was in a similar position as the previous night — sixth of the remaining nine players with only 1.46 million — fewer than 15 big blinds. Juan Restrepo was the massive chip leader with 11.7 million — more than one-third of all the chips in play.

"I was money jumping at first," Hawkins said. "Picking my spots," and letting other players bust out, so he could move up the pay scale. But he was, "always in it," he said. He caught a couple of key double-ups, then busted 5th place finisher Jermie Anderson in a coin-flip with pocket 9s against Anderson's KT offsuit. That hand put him in good shape with 7 million chips.

After Restrepo dispatched their other two opponents, they were heads up with Restrepo holding a 2:1 chip lead, 20 million to Hawkins' 10 million. It took less than an hour with the blinds at 80k/160k and Hawkins chipping away at Restrepo's lead. On the final hand, the flop was A Q 9 and Hawkins shoved. Restrepo called all-in, showing A8 for top pair. Hawkins had him beat with AQ for top two pair. The

turn was an 8, giving Restrepo a second pair and glimmer of hope, but the river was a 6 and it was over.

In addition to the prize money and ring, Hawkins also earned 50 points in the Casino Champion race and toward the National Leaderboard. He takes the lead here at Palm Beach Kennel Club and plans to take the Casino Champion title. His next event will be Event 6 tomorrow, the \$365 Six-Max NLH event.

Hawkins graduated from college with a major in biology and minor in chemistry and had been accepted to medical school out of the country, but he had a new son and didn't want to leave. He decided to give poker a try, since he could always go to medical school later. All these years later, he is "still paying the bills with the game I love". This is his largest single career win and puts his lifetime earnings over \$1 million.

The decision to pick poker over medicine has boded well both monetarily and when it comes to Hawkins' jewelry collection. One of the top Circuit performer's in the tour's history, Hawkins' fourth ring puts him in the company of other notable four-time winners Men Nguyen, Peter Ippolito, Cauffman Talley, and Michael Souza.

The 2,531 entries in this event created a prize pool of \$1,265,500, well over the \$1 Million Guarantee. The final 279 players got paid. Maurice Hawkins was the only player at the final table to already own some WSOP hardware. Other notable finishers in the money were Ralph Massey – 19th, Jonathan Tamayo – 40th; Cary Marshall – 47th; Ari Engel – 126th; and Loni Harwood – 155th.

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, but the third to reach a conclusion. The \$580 No Limit Hold'em Re-Entry with \$1 Million Guarantee tournament attracted 2,531 players generating a \$1,265,500 prize pool. The top 279 players were to be paid, but there was a tie on the money bubble, so two players split 279th-place money.

Final Table Results

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>CITY / STATE / COUNTRY</u>	<u>CASH EARNED</u>
1	Maurice Hawkins	West Palm Beach, FL, US	\$183,498
2	Juan Restrepo	Pembroke Pines, FL, US	\$114,224
3	Michael Manticoff	Tampa, FL, US	\$86,965
4	William Navarro	Tampa, FL, US	\$67,147
5	Jermie Anderson	Dayton, OH, US	\$52,227
6	Michael Amato	BOCA RATON, FL, US	\$40,939
7	Jon Godwin	CLEARWATER, FL, US	\$32,346
8	Jesse Fulmer	BELLE CENTER, OH, US	\$25,753
9	Joseph Klima	Port St. Lucie, FL, US	\$20,678

Full results are available at WSOP.com.

Maurice Hawkins earned 50 points for this win in the Casino Champion race and toward the National Leaderboard. He ties all the other event winners in points, but takes the lead because the cash won decides the tie.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during PBKC'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.

This is the third gold ring awarded at the Palm Beach Kennel Club this season.

EVENT #1: Maurice Hawkins defeated 2,531 players (\$580 NLH Re-Entry) for \$183,498

EVENT #2: Chan Pelton defeated 145 players (\$365 PLO/8) for \$12,181

EVENT #3: Jeff Gunnip defeated 126 players (\$365 HORSE) for \$10,586

With three tournaments wrapped, nine more rings remain up for grabs at PBKC.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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