

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Harrah's Cherokee

Event #8

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 446

Total Prize Pool: \$133,800

April 8-9, 2014

Nilesh Choudhary Breaks Through in Event 8

Newest ring winner defeats a final table that included November Niner Dennis Phillips and three-time ring winner Cory Waaland.

Cherokee, North Carolina (April 10, 2014) – “I'm just too happy.”

For a moment, those were the only words that an emotionally overcome Nilesh Choudhary could speak. The information technology program manager had just accomplished one of his dreams: winning a World Series of Poker Circuit ring. Choudhary rose to the top of the 446-player field to claim \$29,429 in first-place winnings, the gold ring, and 50 points toward the Casino Championship race.

Choudhary was one of 12 players to return for the second day of play. After a few quick eliminations, he made the final table along with a handful of familiar faces from the Circuit. Anthony Dye, a ring winner from the 2009/2010 season, held the chip lead going into the final table. Three-time ring winner Cory Waaland was present, but representing the shortest stack. Dennis Phillips, member of the original November Nine, was also in contention.

“There were ups and downs,” said Choudhary about the final table. “I lost one big hand – jacks to ace-king – when somebody spiked an ace on the river. Afterwards, I just tried to build my stack up. In one hand, somebody had kings and I had ace-queen and hit my ace, so that helped.”

One by one, Choudhary's opponents fell victim to the final table. Waaland was eliminated in eighth place and denied his fourth Circuit ring. Phillips fell in sixth, netting him a payday of \$5,696. Eventually, Choudhary found himself heads up with Dye for the title.

“We both had about 2.2 million chips with 4.4 million in play,” said Choudhary. “We were both playing pretty sensible poker until then. Then, on one hand, there was a flop of 4♠6♠K and he had a straight draw and I had ace-king. Actually, the river came an ace so I had two pair and he had just a straight draw. He pushed like half of his stack in trying to get me off of it, but I went all in and of course he folded. At that point I had almost a 4-to-1 chip lead.”

Choudhary embraced this lead and leaned on Dye until he collapsed. On the final hand, Choudhary's ace-eight outlasted a preflop shove of Dye's ten-four, allowing him to clinch the title.

Choudhary, who wishes to put his poker earnings to good use, has vowed to give some of his winnings to charity, though he doesn't have a specific charity picked out yet.

"I have pledged a part of my winnings to charity," he said. "If I win money in gambling I try to, you know? I think I feel obliged to give some part of it back."

Final table results were as follows:

1st – Nilesh Choudhary - \$29,429

2nd – Anthony Dye - \$18,190

3rd – Michael Foley - \$13,392

4th – Benjmain Sears - \$9,869

5th – William Richardson - \$7,442

6th – Dennis Phillips - \$5,696

7th – Jeffrey Turton - \$4,423

8th – Cory Waaland - \$3,484

9th – Jess Snyder - \$2,783

Notes on the Event

- There were five total rings at the final table. Three belong to Cory Waaland, one to Dennis Phillips, and one to runner-up finisher Anthony Dye.

- Day 2 began with just 12 players remaining. A final table was reached in less than two hours.

- This marks Nilesh Choudhary's third cash on the WSOP Circuit and his first victory.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place on May 22-24 at Caesars Atlantic City this spring. Choudhary earned 50 points for his win, giving him 5 total points toward the Casino Championship.

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 Harrah's Cherokee:

EVENT #1: Mark Saporito defeated 700 players (\$365 NLH) for \$43,048.

EVENT #2: Kevin Sherrill defeated 894 players (\$365 NLE) for \$52,295

EVENT #3: Harold Mahaffey defeated 257 players (\$365 PLO) for \$18,888

EVENT #4: Kaivon Hakimi defeated 1,665 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$85,185
EVENT #5: Bruce Nguyen defeated 484 players (\$365 NLH) for \$31,216
EVENT #6: John Feore defeated 427 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$29,462
EVENT #7: Chris Shaw defeated 433 players (\$365 NLH) for \$28,578.
EVENT #8: Nilesh Choudhary defeated 446 players (\$365 NLH) for \$29,429

With the completion of this event, there are just four more rings to be crowned at Harrah's Cherokee. The Main Event begins Friday, April 11.

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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