

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

IP Casino Resort and Spa

Biloxi, Miss.

Event #8

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 143

Prize Pool: \$42,900

September 10-11, 2014



Daniel Lowery Heads Back to the Winner's Circle

Arkansas pro's money tree brings good fortune. Lowery scores \$12,014 in what marks his first win since early 2013.

Biloxi, Miss. (September 11, 2014) — Daniel Lowery returned to the winner's circle Thursday afternoon at IP Biloxi in Event 8, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament. The Arkansas pro outlasted 143 players to earn his second career gold ring along with \$12,014 in what marks his first victory since early 2013.

"I've been [at final tables] so many times – and that's not a brag, that's a needle to myself not. [I wasn't] getting past fifth or sixth place," a relieved Lowery said. "Even though I've [won a ring] and gotten over the hump, this seems like a really big deal to me today because I've been going through a lot."

Lowery, a three-time National Championship qualifier, had to leave 2014's season-ending event early due to his father's health. He and his wife Krista hopped a plane from Atlantic City and arrived home in time for Lowery to visit his father in the hospital.

"I rushed home and got to see him right before he passed," an emotional Lowery said.

After his father's passing, Lowery elected to take the summer off from the World Series of Poker and stayed in Arkansas to spend time with his family. As he and his family continued to grieve and grow together, they decided it was time to give the tournament circuit another shot.

"I went to a little tournament in Durant, [Okla.] and felt like I played really terrible. I never could get focused," Lowery said. "Then we went to Winstar and had a disappointing showing there. I was starting to second guess myself a little bit."

Lowery came to the IP in search of the success he experienced early in his poker career, but it wouldn't come right away. By his own account, he lasted less than two hours combined in the first events he played. Then, in Event 8, he went on what he referred to as the 'biggest heater of his life'. Lowery sent player after player to the rail and claims to have held nearly 500,000 chips with less than three tables remaining. It wasn't long before he came back to reality with an average stack, but his determination never faltered.

“I never doubted [I could win], really,” Lowery said. “I just knew I had to keep picking the best spots at the table. I kept butting heads with Clyde [Lorance] at bad points. That’s the only reason I didn’t coast all the way through the tournament, [Lorance] kept me down playing bigger pots than I wanted to play. I guess I was his cash cow through the whole tournament.”

Lowery eventually got the best of Lorance heads up, but he didn’t do it alone. A few days ago and at the urging of his close friend and three-time ring winner La Sengphet, Lowery and his wife purchased a money tree. Sengphet owns four and they’ve treated her well over the years with nearly \$400,000 in career earnings.

“We traveled with this one from Arkansas,” Lowery said of his tree. “We bought it before we came down. I guess [Sengphet’s] going to tell me I told you so. I don’t know if I believe, but I sure like having it around.”

Lowery, now a two-time ring winner, lost his first Circuit trophy when his home was burglarized during the summer of 2013. While this ring isn’t so much redemption, it’s a visual reminder of how far he’s come and what he’s capable of.

Event 8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at IP Biloxi. The \$365 no-limit hold’em event attracted 143 players. The total prize pool came to \$42,900 and the top 15 players were paid.

Day 1 began Wednesday, September 10 at 12 p.m. and lasted 18 levels. Play restarted the following day at 1 p.m. with six players remaining. Action concluded at 3:15 p.m. making the total duration of the event just over 14 hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from IP Biloxi:

EVENT #1: Mark Fink defeated 125 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,500
EVENT #2: Tony Gray defeated 153 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$12,391
EVENT #3: John Holley defeated 631 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$38,813
EVENT #4: Josh Reichard defeated 119 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,709
EVENT #5: Valentin Vornicu defeated 151 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,231
EVENT #6: Michael Prock defeated 74 players (\$365 PLO) for \$7,548
EVENT #7: Rodney Sermons defeated 138 players (\$365 NLH Six Handed) for \$11,799
EVENT #8: Daniel Lowery defeated 143 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,014

The player who accumulates the most overall points during IP Biloxi’s 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place this spring at a yet-to-be-determined location.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 56 expected 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.

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