

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Hammond, Ind.

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry

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

Total Entries: 1,959

Prize Pool: \$587,700

October 16-19, 2014



Robert Hankins Claims Re-Entry Ring

Nashville pro earns his third career ring in Horseshoe Hammond opening event, pockets \$92,562, 50 points toward the Casino Championship and a \$1,675 Main Event seat.

Circuit's premiere stop hosts 12 gold ring events running through Monday, October 27.

Hammond, Ind. (October 19, 2014) — Robert Hankins used just one \$365 buy-in en route to his third career Circuit ring in Event 1 at Horseshoe Casino, the series-opening re-entry ring event. He broke through in style, besting nearly 2,000 entries over four days to nab the Casino Championship lead, a \$1,675 Main Event seat and \$92,562 – more than 250 times his investment.

“It’s fun times, man. Great place, Hammond. Run good,” Hankins said.

Hankins, a resident of Nashville, Tenn., earned his previous two rings outside his hometown at Harrah’s Casino in Tunica, Miss. His first came in 2010 and earned him \$16,314 while his second was won earlier this year in February and saw him record a \$23,941 payday. With nearly \$100,000 in earnings over the course of 16 Circuit cashes prior to Sunday, Hankins’ most recent score almost doubles his lifetime winnings.

“I’m just bracelet chasing now. Three [rings] is good,” Hankins said.

The opening event was scheduled to play out over three consecutive days, but required the addition of an unplanned fourth to accommodate the strong turnout. Hankins ran hot on last Thursday’s Day 1A and never had to exercise his option to re-enter. He began Day 2 near the middle of the pack with 250 returning and grinded his way to an in-the-money finish and eventually a final table berth.

With just nine players remaining Hankins sat eighth in the counts and watched as the previous chip leader, Mark Brazis, stumbled, eventually finishing fifth. Having felt Brazis’ pain before, Hankins went out of his way to compliment the self-employed Indianapolis resident’s play in his post-tournament interview. In the end though, it was Hankins’ day.

He hit two fortunate boards against the eventual runner-up Greg Mayer. First, Hankins’ [Kh][4h] bested Mayer’s [Ah][Td] all-in preflop. Then, in another preflop confrontation that proved to be

the last of the night, Hankins' [Jc][Jh] outdrew Mayer's [Ah][Qh] after a [Kc][Qs][4c] board completed [9h][Tc] giving Hankins runner-runner straight cards and his third ring.

"We just ran good the first day and didn't have to worry about anything after that," Hankins said about his good fortune.

Hankins is a 34-year-old poker professional from Nashville, Tenn. His Event 1 victory in Hammond marks his third career gold ring win and 17th career Circuit cash. He now lays claim to \$191,523 in career earnings at the Circuit alone.

"Can I give a shout out to my son Reece and daughter Aubri Hankins," he said in closing.

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry event attracted 1,959 entries. The total prize pool came to \$587,700 and the top 207 finishers were paid.

Gold ring events at the Circuit's premiere property run non-stop between now and the \$1,675 Main Event final table Monday, October 27. A full schedule of events is available on WSOP.com.

Re-entry flight-by-flight breakdown:

Flight	Date	Entries	Advanced
A	Thurs, Oct 16	809	97
B	Fri, Oct 17	1,150	153
Total	--	1,959	250

Day 2 began Saturday at 2 p.m. with 250 players and it took less than an hour to reach the money. From there, play narrowed to the nine-handed final table shortly after 2 a.m. An additional day was added to the structure to accommodate the larger-than-average field, thus, players reconvened for the third and final playing session Sunday at 2 p.m. Action concluded shortly after 8 p.m. making the total duration of the finale about six hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Hammond:

EVENT #1: Robert Hankins defeated 1,959 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$92,562

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Hammond'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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