

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, N.C.
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)
Total Entries: 350
Prize Pool: \$175,000
Dec. 4-5, 2014**



Frei with a Breakthrough Victory

Aaron Frei has been grinding the Circuit hard for two full years now. His hard work finally pays off in the form of a gold ring and more than \$40,000.

Cherokee, N.C. (December 5, 2014) -- Lucky number 21 for Aaron Frei. The number 21 is lucky for Aaron Frei because he has just won his first WSOP Circuit gold ring as his 21st WSOP Circuit cash. The Circuit grinder has cashed 20 times for \$51,515 on the Circuit before today's victory in Event #8 - \$580 No-Limit Hold'em.

It was no easy task for Frei to win his first ring today, even though he started Day 2 as the chip leader. Frei had to defeat two WSOP Bracelet winners in Greg Raymer and Leif Force. They would provide the biggest challenge in preventing Frei from winning.

"Force at least didn't have a ton of chips to start. He kind of did start running it up, but Raymer came in and was just bulldozing everybody, so that was definitely the biggest competition. If he wins that flip he probably wins [the][tournament]," said Frei about his tough competition.

The flip Frei was talking about happened early into the final table. Frei 3-bet and then 5-bet Raymer all-in preflop. Frei's pocket tens were able to turn a flush to beat Raymer's Ace-Jack. Frei said that hand gave him the chips and momentum that he needed, and the rest was history.

Frei's Circuit accomplishments don't just stop with 21 cashes and now a gold ring. Last year Frei was the Casino Champion at Harrah's Tunica. He cashed four times at that series, including reaching two final tables. This marks the 7th Circuit final table of Frei's career.

"It's a little relief you know, definitely a relief," said Frei when asked how it felt to win a ring. "Trying for awhile, got close a lot of times, but couldn't close it out."

Frei can enjoy his victory for a little bit, but for him the celebration will be short. He is planning to play in Flight B of the Main Event tomorrow. We'll see if Frei can keep momentum on his side and make another deep run. His focus now is on ring number two.

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Cherokee in Cherokee, N.C. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 350 players generating a \$175,000 prize pool. The top 36 players were paid.

Notes on the event:

- This final table featured two bracelet winners: Greg Ramyer (seventh place) and Leif Force (eighth place).

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

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 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: Karthik Ramakrishnan defeated 1,930 players (\$365 NLHE Re-entry) for \$91,166

EVENT #2: Nhat Truong defeated 183 players (\$365 PLO) for \$14,275

EVENT #3: Jonathan Abla defeated 404 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$26,660

EVENT #4: Steven Snyder defeated 381 players (\$365 NLHE 6 Max) for \$27,430

EVENT #5: Raymond "Trey" Walton defeated 323 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$22,773

EVENT #6: Michael Bramlett defeated 398 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$26,275

EVENT #7: Jim Kier defeated 480 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$30,962

EVENT #8: Aaron Frei defeated 350 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$40,242

With the eighth tournament wrapped up, only four more ring events remain at Harrah's Cherokee.

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