

## **2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Harrah's Resort Southern California**

**Event #8**

**No-Limit Hold'em**

**Buy-In: \$365**

**Total Entries: 138**

**Total Prize Pool: \$41,400**

**December 10, 2014**

## **Slade Crooks Wins \$365 NLHE Event at Harrah's Southern California**

### **Crooks Dominated a Lightning-Fast Final Table to Earn His First Circuit Ring**

**San Diego (December 11, 2014)** – In one of the fastest tournaments so far at this year's World Series of Poker Circuit at Harrah's Southern California, Slade Crooks became the latest Circuit ring winner. Crooks won the first ring of his career in Event #8: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em, earning \$11,589.

It was a dominating performance for Crooks. He had the chip lead with 18 players to go and never looked back. From that point on, it seemed like he was never truly in danger. He had a substantial chip lead when the final table began, and wielded his stack effectively. The entire final table last just over two hours, and a tournament that was scheduled for two days was over in just one. This tournament had a bigger field than almost all the other preliminary events here at Harrah's Southern California, but this one ended the fastest. In fact, heads-up play lasted only one hand, as Crooks eliminated Jackson Ryan (3rd place - \$5,172) and Mary Anne Madruga (2nd place - \$7,165) on back-to-back hands.

"I was super lucky to have a quarter of the chips going into the final table," a humble Crooks said after winning the ring. "I just got really big hands at the right time, and they held up. I felt really comfortable with the spots I found myself in, and it came together quite neatly."

This is a bit of a new experience for Crooks, who has spent most of his career as a cash game specialist and has just recently turned his attention to tournaments. He explained that he isn't interested in transitioning to tournaments at the expense of cash games, but would like to add tournament play to his poker repertoire. "I've been playing more tournaments recently, especially on the World Series Circuit. I want to be better at tournaments because that's where a lot of successful players make a lot of money and it's something I'm very envious of," he said with a slightly self-deprecating smile. With his first WSOP Circuit ring on his resume, along with a number of successes at tournaments in his home city of Las Vegas, Crooks's tournament career is off to a good start.

The tournament was completed in one day on Wednesday, December 10. Play began at noon with 138 entrants, and they combined a single table of 10 players at roughly 11:45 p.m. Play finished at about 2:15 a.m., making the total duration of the final table about 2.5 hours.

Full results from the event are available on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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## Notes on the Event

-- This is the second final table of the series for second-place finisher Mary-Anne Madruga. She now moves into third place in the Harrah's Southern California Casino Champion race.

-- Two final tablists in this tournament, Raney Stanscak (5th place - \$2,841) and James Hellerer (8th place - \$1,312) won rings last month at the WSOP Circuit at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

After Event #8, Vincent Moscati retains the lead in the Harrah's Southern California Casino Champion race. Moscati has 82.5 from three cashes, including a victory and a fourth-place finish. Adam Sadick is in second place with 65 points from two final table performances. Mary Anne Madruga also has 65 points, but Sadick holds the tiebreaker. The player who accumulates the most overall points in the twelve gold ring tournaments at Harrah's Southern California earns the title of Casino Champion and receives an automatic entry into the \$1 million 2015 WSOP National Championship. The winner of the Harrah's Southern California Main Event earns an automatic entry to the National Championship as well. All players who cash in ring events will receive points that apply to both the Casino Champion race and the season-long race to claim one of the 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](http://WSOP.com).

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Southern California so far:

EVENT #1: Vincent Moscati defeated 183 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$14,275.  
EVENT #2: Raad Farida defeated 135 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em – 1 Day) for \$11,341.  
EVENT #3: Scott Stewart defeated 526 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry) for \$33,926.  
EVENT #4: Jason Wortham defeated 106 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$9,542.  
EVENT #5: Tavish Margers defeated 113 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$10,172.  
EVENT #6: Nyle Rock defeated 135 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed) for \$11,543.  
EVENT #7: Steve Forman defeated 73 players (\$365 Pot-Limit Omaha) for \$7,446.  
EVENT #8: Slade Crooks defeated 138 players (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$11,589.

With the eighth tournament now wrapped up, there are now four more gold ring events before the WSOP Circuit at Harrah's Southern California concludes on December 15.

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](http://WSOP.com).

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