

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Tunica, Miss.

Event #6

No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed

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

Total Entries: 281

Prize Pool: \$84,300

January 26-27, 2015



Greg Lamson Pockets \$21K in Six-Max

Michigan resident flops a straight to put an end to a five-hour heads-up marathon.

Tunica, Miss. (January 28, 2015) — Ironman Greg Lamson persevered through a five-hour heads-up battle against Nick Graphia in Event 6, a \$365 six-max tournament, to earn \$21,916 along with his first World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring. The victory came late Wednesday night at Horseshoe Casino in Tunica, Miss. and marked Lamson's first WSOP-related cash.

Day 2 of the short-handed tournament restarted Wednesday afternoon with nine players remaining and ring winner BJ McBrayer holding the chip lead. Lamson sat second while notables Ross Bybee and Nolan Burton lurked toward the middle of the pack. The early stages of play were unkind to the day's frontrunner as McBrayer went from chip leader to shortstack in the 90 minutes it took to shear the Day 2 field to the seven-handed final table. Lamson remained in second place but would soon jump to the top of the counts after he butt heads with fellow big stack Bybee.

With four players left and McBrayer already on the rail, Bybee opened a pot and Lamson promptly three bet him. Action was back on Bybee and he moved all in. Lamson called and just like that the tournament was a flop, turn and river away from having a commanding chip leader. Bybee was behind and at risk with ace-jack versus the ace-queen of Lamson. The board improved neither player and suddenly one of the most experienced players at the table was rendered a spectator.

"I didn't have to play a lot of hands because I got in big hands," Lamson said. "We probably shouldn't have been in hands that big but those other guys wanted to get it lit, so we did. I didn't start it, they did."

Next to go would be Ken Parker in third. Parker got the last of his stack in holding pocket fives and Lamson wasn't going anywhere with pocket aces. Just as it did for Bybee a few minutes earlier, the board bricked out and Parker hit the rail. The pot pushed Lamson well over 2,000,000 chips and he went into heads-up play against Graphia with a nearly nine-to-one chip advantage.

From there, the duo duelled for five full hours before they'd crown a champion. Lamson surrendered small pots to Graphia and Graphia surrendered them right back. They traded chips back and forth for hours before Graphia was forced to move all in. He doubled through Lamson

six or more times throughout the course of heads-up play and the blinds and antes got so large that no player's chip lead was safe.

"[Graphia] is a grinder. That guy's been around the block," Lamson said. "Is that guy magic or what? I don't know how that guy did that. I don't know how he escaped. He twisted out. I could never cut the head off of the snake. I was kind of embarrassed at first to think I couldn't knock that guy out with that kind of chip lead."

With the ante equal to the size of the tournament's 10,000-chip starting stack and the small and big blinds at 40,000/80,000, the dealer dealt a hand that would behead the snake for Lamson. The flop came out [Th][9c][6c] and Lamson held [8d][7d] for a straight. Graphia, who was on life support with about 10 big blinds, got all in holding top pair and a flush draw. Remarkably, the runout improved neither player and a never-ending heads-up match indeed came to an end. Graphia hit the rail honorably and pocketed \$13,544 for his efforts. Lamson, meanwhile, went home with the winner's share of \$21,916.

Lamson is 50 years old and resides in Bay City, Mich. where he works as a landman in the oil and gas industry. The Event 6 victory not only marked his first gold ring, it marked his first time to cash in a WSOP-related event.

Event 6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Tunica. The \$365 no-limit hold'em six-handed event attracted 281 players. The total prize pool came to \$84,300 and the top 30 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Monday, January 26 at 12 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 21. Day 2 began Tuesday at 2 p.m. with nine players remaining. The six-handed final table was reached shortly after 4:30 p.m. and action concluded just before midnight making the total duration of the finale seven and a half hours including a one-hour dinner break.

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

EVENT #1: Scott Stewart defeated 338 players (\$365 NLH) for \$23,326
EVENT #2: Chico Pho defeated 130 players (\$365 PLO) for \$10,919
EVENT #3: Daniel Gilmer defeated 393 players (\$365 NLH) for \$25,942
EVENT #4: Derek Schroeder defeated 1,370 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$70,898
EVENT #5: Jeffrey Nordstrom defeated 266 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,547
EVENT #6: Gregory Lamson defeated 281 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$21,916

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Horseshoe'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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For additional information please contact:

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lukasmwillems@gmail.com.