

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Tunica, Miss.

Event #10

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 457

Prize Pool: \$685,500

January 30-February 2, 2015



Johnny Landreth Wins Tunica Main Event and \$147K

Lanett, Ala. retiree perseveres through eight-hour heads-up battle, punches ticket to National Championship.

Tunica, Miss. (February 2, 2015) — A lifetime of poker, and Johnny Landreth finally has his ring. The Lanett, Ala. native won a marathon heads-up match against Tom Thomas to conquer a field of 457 in the Horseshoe Casino World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event and take down \$147,388, his first gold WSOP Circuit ring, and book a seat in the National Championship.

Landreth, a 67-year-old retiree and father of five, said he's been playing poker his whole life. He's banked some solid scores in his career with the headliner being a win in a 2005 WPO event for \$185,797. However, WSOP success had mostly eluded him until now. Now, he has something major to show for his efforts on the tour.

"I've got a lot of friends that have [a ring]," Landreth said. "I played a lot of events and it just hadn't fallen my way. It did this time."

Landreth found himself in prime position to grab the win entering Day 3 as only eight players remained and he held a slight chip lead over Thomas with a massive gulf between those two and the rest of the players. Combined, the two brought more than 6,000,000 into the final day of the 9,140,000 total in play, good for more than 100 big blinds each as the day began at 15,000/30,000/5,000.

That meant the pressure was on for the rest of the competitors, and one by one, they were crushed under the overwhelming stacks of Landreth and Thomas who found themselves heads up with the gold Circuit ring in a tiny black box between them just over two hours into play. Landreth held about a two-to-one lead at that point. A marathon battle ensued, with neither player looking to take major risks given how deep the stacks were (shorter-stacked Thomas still had 72 big blinds). Landreth said he was prepared for the tough battle against an opponent whom he characterized as "really conservative."

"I knew I was going to have to be patient, but I have to be aggressive on top of that," he said. "You have to get to know a player, and that's what we did for so long, and that's why we started off so slow."

While many heads-up matches feature very aggressive play and massive swings, this one featured more gradual, but still stark, shifts of momentum. Rather than one big pot determining

who held the lead, each player would go on a run where he would seemingly win 80 percent of the pots for a half hour stretch, and the chip lead changed hands several times. At his lowest point, Landreth had been whittled to about 15 big blinds by Thomas' patient play.

"I'm not going anywhere, I'm not giving up," Landreth said of his mindset when the end seemed near. "I had to manufacture some chips when he had me down on the ropes."

The turning point came in a limped pot when [5d][4s][2s] flopped, and Thomas bet out 250,000 from the big blind during Level 31 (50,000/100,000/10,000). Landreth called, and Thomas fired another 500,000 on the [td] turn. Landreth decided to shove all in for about double that with his [6c][3h], the flopped nut straight, and Thomas called with [5c][4c]. He missed his four-outer on the river, giving Landreth renewed life.

A heads-up match that had started very amiably, with the two Southern gentlemen (Thomas hails from Amarillo, Tex.) chatting it up about all manner of topics, including mutual friends and experiences in the old-time South poker scene, got more serious as the night dragged on and neither relented. Ultimately, after an eight-hour battle, Thomas shoved his last 2,000,000 in from the button at Level 33 (80,000/160,000/20,000) with [kh][9s] and was called by Landreth, who woke up with [6d][6h]. A run out of [ad][5s][4s][3d][ac] meant Landreth had his ring.

"I sure am [tired]," Landreth said after the win.

Other players taking chunks of the \$685,500 prize pool included Ryan Tepen (15th), Tripp Kirk (17th), Scott Stewart (18th), Ari Engel (19th), Nathan Bjerno (25th), Kory Kilpatrick (34th), Jordan Smith (35th), Kyle Cartwright (36th), Brandon Newsome (43rd), and Josh Mancuso (44th). Stewart's deep run cemented his place as the Casino Championship points leader, for which he will also receive a free seat in the WSOP National Championship.

The Main Event was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Tunica. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 457 entries. The total prize pool came to \$685,500 and the top 54 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31 at 12 p.m. Flight A boasted 172 entries and advanced 33 while Flight B drew 285 and advanced 60.

Play restarted Sunday at 12 p.m. with 93 players. The money bubble burst at the beginning of Level 18 (2:30 p.m.) and play wrapped just after midnight

The nine-handed final table began with about an hour and a half left in Day 2, and thus, Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. with eight players remaining. Play concluded just before 10:30 p.m. making the total duration of the finale about 12 hours over the course of two days.

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

Action began with 40 minutes left in Level 24 (10,000/20,000 with a 3,000 ante)

Seat 1: Norman McKeldin - 807,000

Seat 2: Jay Bishop - 872,000

Seat 3: Jamie Strickland - 805,000
Seat 4: Jeremy Drewery - 527,000
Seat 5: Tom Thomas - 1,622,000
Seat 6: Russ Head - 600,000
Seat 7: Keith Murrell - 373,000
Seat 8: Happy Nakhoneinh - 542,000
Seat 9: Johnny Landreth - 2,810,000*

**Chip leader*

About the final table:

1st: Johnny Landreth - \$147,388
Hometown: Lanett, Ala.
Occupation: Retired
WSOP earnings: \$8,300
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$16,244

2nd: Tom Thomas - \$91,124
Hometown: Amarillo, Tex.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

3rd: Aphideth "Happy" Nakhoneinh - \$66,569
Hometown: Cordova, Tenn.
WSOP earnings: 0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$8,516

4th: Norman McKeldin - \$49,349
Hometown: Chattanooga, Tenn.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$155,533

5th: Jeremy Drewery - \$37,113
Hometown: Arlington, Tenn.
Occupation: Sheriff's deputy
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$69,673

6th: Keith Murrell - \$28,311
Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$3,075
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$36,631

7th: Tommy "Jay" Bishop - \$21,902
Hometown: Pearl, Miss.
Occupation: Computer consultant
WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$1,728

8th: Jamie Strickland - \$17,185

Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Occupation: Business owner

WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$4,108

9th: Russ Head - \$13,676

Hometown: Rome, Ga.

Occupation: Business owner/professional poker player

WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$96,439

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

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

EVENT #7: Dave Moersdorf defeated 276 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,875

EVENT #8: David Delaney defeated 254 players (\$365 NLH) for \$18,667

EVENT #9: Tim Cullen defeated 228 players (\$580 NLH) for \$28,502

EVENT #10 The Main Event: Johnny Landreth defeated 457 entries (\$1,675 NLH) for \$147,388

EVENT #11: Dale Jones defeated 125 players (\$365 One-Day NLH) for \$10,500

EVENT #12: Paul Mattiotta defeated 146 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,265

Scott Stewart earned Casino Champion honors after following up first and sixth-place finishes in preliminary events with an 18th-place finish in the Main Event. In all, Stewart carded 92.5 points and narrowly edged his out friend and travelmate Paul Mattiotta via the money-earned tie breaker. Stewart is set to join the Horseshoe Tunica Main Event champion, Johnny Landreth, at a yet-to-be determined location for the National Championship. There, they'll compete for an up-to \$2,000,000 prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cashed in ring events received 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.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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