

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, Okla.

Event #5

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 281

Prize Pool: \$84,300

January 11-12, 2015



Ben Reason Earns Second Career Gold Ring

Texas pro outlasts the field in \$365 no-limit hold'em event to earn \$20,233.

Durant, Okla. (January 13, 2015) — Running alongside the record-breaking re-entry event at Choctaw Casino Resort Monday was Event 5, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament. While the players joked they were vying for a \$20,000 first prize as the table adjacent to them competed for closer to \$200,000, Justin "Choctaw" Kruger chimed in with some words of wisdom.

"It's the same ring. The points are the same," he laughed.

Kruger was right. Despite a field that was only a fraction of the size, the Event 5 final tablists were competing for a gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship. Unfortunately for Kruger, for the second time this series a deep run came up short, and in the end, the gold ring went to Texas pro Ben Reason. Reason's winning performance came at the hands of 281 players and earned him a \$20,233 first prize along with his second career gold ring.

"It feels pretty good. It's definitely nice," Reason said.

Reason began the 10-handed final table as the chip leader and sat well clear of his nearest competitor. With 18 career WSOP-related cashes, a gold ring and more than \$300,000 in earnings, experience was on his side, but he wasn't immune to making mistakes. In his own words, he bluffed off a good portion of his stack before righting the ship and sailing into the winner's circle.

"I just take it one hand at a time and play my best," Reason said. "I was happy with my play. I was pretty mentally relaxed the entire time and very focused."

Reason said he's been playing poker since he was in grade school. Back then, the stakes didn't include real money and there weren't five-figure prizes on the line. Rather, he played five-card draw for Pokemon cards.

"I always enjoyed poker since I was in grade school," Reason said.

Reason's primary source of income comes from online play. In addition, he has a group of people he stakes and coaches on a regular basis. His Event 5 victory marks his second Circuit ring and 14th Circuit cash. He lays claim to more than \$100,000 in earnings at the Circuit alone.

In addition to Reason, others to cash in Event 5 include Austin Buchanan (20th) and Matthew Kirby (18th).

Event 5 was the fifth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 281 players. The total prize pool came to \$84,300 and the top 30 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Sunday, January 11 at 5 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 15. Day 2 began Monday at 2 p.m. with 30 players remaining. Play narrowed to the nine-handed final table around 6:30 p.m. Action concluded at 11:15 p.m. making the total duration of the finale roughly four hours and forty five minutes

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Choctaw Casino Resort:

EVENT #1: Thomas Johnson defeated 990 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$56,427

EVENT #2: Mark Fisher defeated 197 players (\$365 PLO) for \$15,366

EVENT #3: Ray Henson defeated 4,053 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$197,653

EVENT #4: Kevin McColgan defeated 402 players (\$365 One-Day NLH) for \$26,533

EVENT #5: Ben Reason defeated 281 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,233

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Choctaw Casino Resort'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.

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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