

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, Okla.

Event #6

Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 379

Prize Pool: \$113,700

January 12-13, 2015



Stewart Yancik Defeats Jesse Wilke for Six-Handed Ring

Pot-limit Omaha cash game player enticed by six-max format outlasts 379 players to earn \$27,281 and his first gold ring.

Durant, Okla. (January 13, 2015) — Stewart Yancik earned his first gold ring Tuesday night at Choctaw Casino Resort in Event 6 of the property's World Series of Poker Circuit series. For his performance in the \$365 six-handed event, Yancik went home with a \$27,281 first prize and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

The short-handed tournament boasted one of toughest fields we've seen at this year's series. The Day 2 restart may have only been nine players, but among them were Harvey's Lake Tahoe Main Event champion Jesse Wilke, 2013 Choctaw Main Event champion Jeff Fielder, two-time ring winner John "Cowboy" Land as well as ring winners Michael Sanders Jason Tulloss.

It took barely 30 minutes for the field to trim itself from nine to the unofficial seven-handed final table, and as Yancik alluded to in his post-tournament interview, the eventual champion had his work cut out for him.

"I had the worst seat at the final table," he told the WSOP.

With Fielder, Sanders and Wilke on his left, and Land and Tulloss coming along for the ride, Yancik put his nose to the grindstone and got down to business. Land was the first to go in sixth, then Fielder in fifth. Sanders followed soon after in fourth. In no time, just Yancik, Wilke and a shorstacked Tulloss remained. Tulloss hit the rail third leaving Yancik holding the chip lead against Wilke.

"He was definitely the best player remaining in the field on Day 2 in my opinion," Yancik said of Wilke. "However the cards were going to fall was what was going to happen heads up. He played very well."

The cards fell in Wilke's favor a few times and he took the chip lead. They fell back in Yancik's favor a few hands later and he regained the lead. In no time they'd fall in Wilke's favor again evening the stacks. Eventually, Yancik turned a pair of kings to best Wilke's flopped pair of queens spelling the end of Wilke's hopes for a follow-up gold ring. He earned \$16,854 for his second-place finish.

“It’s my first ring ever,” Yancik said after the win. “I’ve played a number of Circuit events so it feels good to finally get the first one. That’s what a lot of people come out here for, to have [a ring] to take with them.”

Yancik is a 29-year-old poker pro from Blue Springs, Mo. His WSOP resume boasts at least one cash at the World Series each summer – including five in 2011 – dating back to 2008. Primarily a pot-limit Omaha cash player, Yancik has impressively carded three HORSE cashes at the WSOP including a final table appearance in a \$1,500 event this past summer.

“I don’t really play hold’em very often, actually,” Yancik said. “I typically only play hold’em if it’s a tournament. I [mainly play] pot-limit Omaha cash games. I enjoy the HORSE tournaments that the World Series [of Poker] offers because they’re great and it’s a different change of pace. I’m ok at them. I’m not great, but I enjoy them so I play them.”

Following his Event 6 win, Yancik’s WSOP resume includes 22 cashes totaling more than \$170,000 in earnings.

Event 6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 six-handed no-limit hold’em event attracted 379 players. The total prize pool came to \$113,700 and the top 42 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Monday, January 12 at 12 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 21. Day 2 began Tuesday at 12 p.m. with nine players remaining. Play narrowed to the six-handed final table by 12:30 p.m. Action concluded at 6 p.m. making the total duration of the finale five and a half hours.

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
EVENT #6: Stewart Yancik defeated 379 players (\$365 Six-Handed NLH) for \$27,281

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.

For additional information please contact:

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