

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

**Season 11**

**Choctaw Casino Resort**

**Durant, Okla.**

**Event #7**

**No-Limit Hold'em**

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

**Total Entries: 241**

**Prize Pool: \$72,300**

**January 12-13, 2015**



## **Johnny Donnelly Dons Another Ring**

**Reluctant to travel, Donnelly finds success at his home property in the form of a second gold ring and \$17,711 payday.**

**Durant, Okla. (January 13, 2015)** — Johnny Donnelly is a two-time gold ring winner following his victory in Event 7, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament, Tuesday night. The event was part of the 12-day World Series of Poker Circuit series at Choctaw Casino Resort and awarded Donnelly \$17,711 as well as 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

Donnelly is selective in the series he attends which makes the fact his Circuit resume includes three cashes in the form of two gold rings and a third-place finish all the more impressive.

"I like the Circuit, but I hate to travel. [Choctaw is] close to my house so I can drive over here," the Dallas resident said.

Other stops Donnelly has attended in the past include Horseshoe Bossier City and the IP Biloxi series. In 2013 he burst onto the Circuit scene in Bossier City following up a third-place finish with his first gold ring win. The scores earned him enough points to anoint him the Casino Champion and punch his ticket to the National Championship. In the years since then he's been off the WSOP radar but came back in a big way Tuesday in Durant, Okla.

"I feel happy and lucky. I tried so hard to win the tournament," Donnelly said of his most recent victory.

Joining Donnelly during the late stages of play in Event 7 were the likes of Zal Irani and Daniel Lowery. Irani carded his second cash of the series, finishing 16th for \$910. Lowery, meanwhile, ran up a stack and actually held the chip lead at the final table before a cold streak of cards sent him to the rail fifth for \$4,360. Like Irani, this marked Lowery's second cash of the series.

On the final hand of the tournament, Donnelly faced off against Christopher Champeaux who just a few days ago cashed in the property's record-breaking re-entry event. After a round of betting on a [Kc][Qc][Qd] flop, Champeaux, the shortstack, moved all in. Donnelly asked for a count before he called. Champeaux tabled first, showing [Qs][4c] for trip queens. He turned to his rail thinking he had the hand locked, but Donnelly quickly exposed [Qh][9h] and revealed he had Champeaux outkicked.

The [Ts] on the turn meant the pair would likely chop the pot, but the river hit Donnelly hard. It came the [9s] improving him to a fullhouse and leaving Champeaux with second best. The hand won Donnelly the pot, eliminated Champeaux second and awarded Donnelly his second career gold ring along with \$17,711.

Donnelly is 45 years old and resides in Dallas. He was born in Vietnam but fled the country in 1982 in pursuit of the freedom the States provided. He currently works as a welder.

Event 7 was the seventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 241 players. The total prize pool came to \$72,300 and the top 27 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Monday, January 12 at 5 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 15. Day 2 began Tuesday at 2 p.m. with 30 players remaining and the top 27 finishing in the money. The bubble burst just before 2:30 p.m. and the nine-handed final table was reached by 6 p.m. Action concluded shortly before 10 p.m. making the total duration of the finale just under four hours including a one-hour dinner break.

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  
EVENT #7: Johnny Donnelly defeated 241 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,711

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](http://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](http://WSOP.com).

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