

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

**Season 11**

**Choctaw Casino Resort**

**Durant, Okla.**

**Event #10**

**One-Day No-Limit Hold'em**

**Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)**

**Total Entries: 314**

**Prize Pool: \$157,000**

**January 14, 2015**



## **Bret Zorich Pockets \$2,838 an Hour in One-Day NLH**

**Justin “Choctaw” Kruger contends for Casino Championship with fifth-place finish, two-time ring winner Mark Fink finishes runner up.**

**Zorich needs just 13 hours to defeat 314 in \$580 one-day tournament, pockets \$36,899 and his first gold ring.**

**Durant, Okla. (January 15, 2015)** — Bret Zorich of Houston, Tex. outlasted 314 players in Event 10 of the Choctaw Casino Resort World Series of Poker Circuit series early Thursday morning. It took him just 13 hours to capture the title and \$36,899 first prize in what marked the first WSOP event he’d ever played – a \$580 one-day tournament.

“Not bad, right?” he joked of his \$2,838 hourly rate. “It feels great. It was fun. It’s the first time I’ve done the World Series of Poker so obviously it’s a good start out of the gates.”

Zorich’s introduction to poker came while he attended business school at the University of Southern California. Like many who take to the felt today, he began playing with friends and was hooked instantly.

“It’s my favorite non-athletic hobby by a mile,” he said. “I love doing it. It’s kind of my main thing to do outside of my family.”

Zorich has retained many of his relationships from USC and made the journey north to Choctaw from his hometown of Houston with two poker-playing friends. The trio represented itself well. In addition to Zorich’s victory, another member made the final table finishing eighth. In all, they accounted for more than \$41,000 in earnings at the tournament.

“[My friend Daniel Craig] got eighth. The other one – he’s not that good – he got knocked out early,” Zorich joked.

Zorich and Craig had their work cut out for them sitting at a final table that included Casino Championship contender Justin “Choctaw” Kruger and two-time ring winner Mark Fink. Kruger was making his second final table appearance of the series and needed to finish in the top spot to overtake Ben Reason in the Casino Championship race through 10 events. Unfortunately, he’d bust fifth but now owns sole possession of second place on the leaderboard with two points-eligible events to go.

Fink, meanwhile, played his way to a heads-up berth against Zorich but ultimately fell short of his third ring.

“It’s fun to have. I’m excited to have a poker trophy. It kind of validates...” Zorich paused and chose his next words carefully. “My wife doesn’t believe I’m any good at this game. Actually the money will validate it more. She’ll be fired up. I might be allowed to do this again.”

Zorich is 37 years old and works in oil gas. He is married with two children. His Event 10 victory marks his first-ever WSOP-related cash.

Event 10 was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$580 one-day no-limit hold’em event attracted 314 players. The total prize pool came to \$157,000 and the top 33 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Wednesday, January 14 at 12 p.m. Play narrowed to the nine-handed final table by 10:15 p.m. Action concluded just before 1 a.m. making the total duration of the finale about two and a half hours and the total duration of the event 13 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 \$197,588  
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  
EVENT #8: Steve Moore defeated 281 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,233  
EVENT #9: Danny Watkins defeated 225 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,877  
EVENT #10: Bret Zorich defeated 314 players (\$580 One-day NLH) for \$36,899

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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