

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Lumiere Place Casino and Hotels
St. Louis, Mo.
Event #6
No-Limit Hold'em Black Chip Bounty
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 193
Prize Pool: \$38,600
February 24-25, 2015**



Bradley Coultas Wins Circuit's First-Ever Bounty Event

St. Louis resident claims 10 bounties en route to his first gold ring victory, dedicates victory to close friend battling cancer.

St. Louis, Mo. (February 25, 2015) — Bradley Coultas came out on top of a 193-player field in Event 6 of the World Series of Poker Circuit at Lumiere Place, a \$365 no-limit hold'em black chip bounty tournament. The event was the first of its kind in the Circuit's 11-year history and, in its 5 p.m. time slot, attracted a field that outdrew the day's noon ring tournament. In addition to ten \$100 bounties, Coultas hauled in \$10,036, 50 points toward the Casino Championship and his first Circuit gold ring.

"I liked [the bounty tournament]," Coultas said. "It was pretty crazy at the beginning. People are calling light trying to win those bounties. The chips went pretty fast early. I settled down at the end and got lucky enough to hit some hands and fade some stuff when I needed to."

As the dust settled around him, Coultas, unlike many first-time champions, displayed an odd calmness – almost a lack of excitement. Soon after, he let the WSOP know the ring was a great honor, but he'd be giving it to his best friend Jimmy Funderburk. Funderburk is in the midst of battling brain cancer and was recently moved back into the hospital with a grim prognosis.

"It's nice to win [a ring], but I'm going to give it away to my buddy," Coultas said.

Coultas and Funderburk grew up – and remain – best friends. Funderburk's mother babysat Coultas and his sisters for a five-year stretch when they were younger. The pair attended the same church, high school and college. They spent a summer and part of the following fall together building Coultas' grandfather's house and Coultas was even the best man at his wedding this past July.

"He's been my best friend since he was born," Coultas said of Funderburk. "He always said, whenever I get rich, whether it be from school or poker, that he was going to live in my pool house."

Coultas has taken his friend's health struggles the way one would expect. The poker table provides a brief escape, but his best friend is never far from his mind. For that reason, when it

came to the Coultas' gold ring and his crowning achievement as a poker player, there was only one person he cared to share it with.

Coultas is 30 years old and resides in St. Louis. Like many these days, he honed his chops on the virtual felt during his college years. After graduation, he intended to play online professionally, but Black Friday threw a wrench in that plan. Instead, he played live for two years before getting a job as a landscaper. His work life is now a balancing act between poker and landscaping duties – namely, snow plowing.

“It’s actually supposed to snow tonight so I have to go plow probably from 2 in the morning until it stops. Plow some chips and then plow some snow,” Coultas laughed.

Event 6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Lumiere Place. The \$365 no-limit hold'em black chip bounty event attracted 193 players. The total prize pool came to \$38,600 plus \$19,300 worth of bounties. The top 21 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Tuesday, February 24 at 5 p.m. Day 1 wrapped following Level 15 with 24 players remaining. Day 2 resumed Wednesday at 3 p.m. Play narrowed to the nine-handed final table by 6:10 p.m. and action concluded at just before 9 p.m. making the total duration of the finale about three hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Lumiere Place:

EVENT #1: Eric Montgomery defeated 234 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,551
EVENT #2: Mario Webster defeated 792 entries (\$365 NLH re-entry) for \$47,520
EVENT #3: Nicholas Pupillo defeated 104 players (\$580 NLH) for \$15,600
EVENT #4: Charlie Dawson defeated 181 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,118
EVENT #5: Jesse Watson defeated 187 players (\$365 NLH Six Handed) for \$15,428
EVENT #6: Bradley Coultas defeated 193 players (\$365 NLH Black Chip Bounty) for \$10,036

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Lumiere Place's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 60 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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