

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

**Season 11**

**Horseshoe Casino**

**Council Bluffs, Iowa**

**Event #2**

**No-Limit Hold'em Turbo**

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

**Total Entries: 160**

**Prize Pool: \$48,000**

**April 10, 2015**



### **Norman Michalek Scores \$1,178 an Hour in Turbo Event**

**Council Bluffs \$365 turbo event draws 160 players, Westfield, N.J. pro earns top spot along with \$12,958 and a Circuit gold ring.**

**Talented final table sees all-time Circuit cashes leader Doug Carli finish eighth, 2013 WSOP Main Event 43rd-place finisher Phil Mader fourth.**

**Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 11, 2015)** — Professional poker player Norman Michalek added to his resume Friday night in Event 2 of the World Series of Poker Circuit at Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Michalek required just 11 hours to maneuver his way through a tough field in the \$365 no-limit hold'em turbo event that included WSOP Main Event 43rd-place finisher Phil Mader (4th), all-time Circuit cashes leader Doug Carli (8th), National Championship at-large points contender Neil Scott (11th) and two-time ring winner Duane Gerleman (14th). For his efforts, Michalek earned his first gold ring along with \$12,958 in prize money – or \$1,178 an hour.

“It feels good,” Michalek said of the win. “I just came in to this event hoping to qualify for the National Championship. The 50 points are going to help a lot.”

Following Event 2, Michalek's point total sits at 145 and he's all but assured himself a spot among the at-large qualifiers for the National Championship set to take place at Harrah's Cherokee July 29-31. In addition to likely earning him a shot among the Circuit's best, the Event 2 victory marked Michalek's crowning achievement as a live pro. He stayed poised as the likes of Carli, Scott and Gerleman hit the rail before him and grabbed the reins doing the dirty work himself busting Mader fourth to take the chip lead three handed.

“At that point we all had very shallow stacks so it could have been anyone's game -- one flip and you have the chip lead,” Michalek said of leading the late stages of play. “I was confident in my shortstack game and that's all I needed.”

Michalek's confidence was good enough to propel him into the winner's circle of the 160-player field. Primarily an online pro, Michalek boasts six figures of earnings on the virtual felt, but until Friday night, his live resume was lacking. The \$12,958 first prize in Event 2 is far from his largest cash, but a win is a win.

“It’s tough to say [where this accomplishment ranks],” Michalek said. “It’s not my biggest score, but it finally feels good to win a tournament. I’ve never won a live tournament of this size. It feels good. I’m a big turbo fan. I used to play them online all the time. I was in my comfort zone.”

Michalek is 26 years old and resides in Westfield, N.J. The victory marks his 13th WSOP-related cash and moves him over \$80,000 in career earnings at the WSOP.

Event 2 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 no-limit hold’em turbo event attracted 160 players. The total prize pool came to \$48,000 and the top 18 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Friday, April 10 at 12 p.m. and play narrowed to the nine-handed final table just before 9 p.m. Action concluded shortly after 11 p.m. making the total duration of the event just over 11 hours and the total duration of the final table just over two hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Council Bluffs

EVENT #1: David Hengen defeated 150 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,596

EVENT #2: Norman Michalek defeated 160 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$12,958

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Council Bluffs’ 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at Harrah’s Casino in Cherokee, N.C. July 29-31. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 56 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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