

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

**Season 11**

**Horseshoe Casino**

**Council Bluffs, Iowa**

**Event #10**

**The Main Event**

**Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)**

**Total Entries: 235**

**Prize Pool: \$352,500**

**April 17-20, 2015**



## **Michelle Chin Makes History as Circuit's First Female Main Event Champion**

**Council Bluffs Main Event concludes with Wichita, Kan. amateur pocketing \$88K first prize.**

**Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 20, 2015)** — History was made on Monday at Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa when Michelle Chin became the first-ever female champion of a World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event. Chin bested a star-studded final table to take home her first gold ring and \$88,126 in first-place prize money. Chin's victory also earns her a seat in the National Championship which occurs in Cherokee, North Carolina July 29-31.

Chin, a native of Taiwan, made her journey to the States 12 years ago. She currently resides in Wichita, Kansas where she was at one time a restaurant owner. Despite currently being between jobs, Chin wishes to be classified as a recreational player rather than a professional.

Chin burst onto the tournament poker scene earlier this year, scoring her first recorded cash with a victory in the WSOP Circuit Choctaw Ladies event. Just a few months later she managed to cement her spot in poker history becoming the Circuit's first female champion. Chin admitted to primarily playing cash games and said she decided to play the Main Event to try something new. Chin came into the final table as the commanding chip leader and made a habit of consistently applying pressure to her opponents. She retained her chip lead as the final four players returned for Day 3 and eliminated each of her three remaining competitors in 45 short minutes.

"It feels really great," Chin said after her victory. "This is probably at most the 10th tournament I've ever played in my life. It's just awesome to make history."

Following her victory, Chin was surprised and excited to learn of her status as the Circuit's first female champion in its 11-year history.

"It means a lot to me [to be the Circuit's first female Main Event champion]," she said. "There aren't too many women in the poker community. We like to see more and more women play because it is a fun game. No matter what sex you are you should be able to enjoy it. It means a lot to me. I hope I encourage a lot of other girls to come out and play."

The first casualty of the day came just ten minutes into play. Harvey's Lake Tahoe Circuit Main Event champion Jesse Wilke came into the day looking for his second Main Event title of the

season, only to fall at Chin's hands in fourth place for \$29,317. Circuit regular and ring winner Michael Sanders was the next player to go, failing to hold after a preflop all in against Chin. Sanders collected \$39,624 in prize money. This left Mike Lang to battle Chin during heads up play. Lang had a significant chip disadvantage and, despite a valiant effort, was unable to gain any ground against Chin's domination. On the final hand, Chin's pocket sevens rivered a set against Lang's pair to seal the deal.

The Council Bluffs Main Event drew a grand total of 235 entries over two starting flights. This allowed for a total prize pool of \$352,500. The top 24 players in the field made the money with a min-cash worth \$3,254. Some of the notable names to make the money include Nathan Bjerno (24th), two-time defending champion Blair Hinkle (20th), all-time ring leader Alex Masek (17th), 2011 WSOP bracelet winner Eric Rodawig (14th), and two-time ring winner Chris Karambinis (11th).

Final table results:

1st: Michelle Chin - \$88,126  
2nd: Mike Lang - \$54,468  
3rd: Michael Sanders - \$39,642  
4th: Jesse Wilke - \$29,317  
5th: Greg Jennings - \$22,021  
6th: Michael Jensen - \$16,797  
7th: Tom Moss - \$13,007  
8th: Gregory Beaufait - \$10,223  
9th: Richard Fitzgerald - \$8,153

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The Main Event was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 235 entries. The total prize pool came to \$352,500 and the top 24 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 19 at 12 p.m. Flight A boasted 105 entries and advanced 36 while Flight B drew 128 and advanced 45. Both starting flights logged 12 levels of play.

Registration remained open until cards went in the air for Day 2 Sunday at 12 p.m. Two additional players entered the tournament in that time bringing the total field to 235 and the Day 2 restart to 83. The money bubble burst toward the end of Level 19 and play wrapped at the end Level 24 (~2:15 a.m.) with four players remaining.

Day 3 restarted Monday at 12 p.m. and action concluded toward the middle of Level 26 (~12:45 p.m.).

Here's a closer look at the tournament's finale table:

*The final playing session started at the beginning of Level 22 – 6,000/12,000 with a 2,000 ante*

Seat 1: Jesse Wilke - 756,000 (63 BBs)  
Seat 2: Ya-Shuo Chin - 1,530,000 (127 BBs)\*

Seat 3: Greg Beaufait - 356,000 (29 BBs)  
Seat 4: Greg Jennings - 774,000 (64 BBs)  
Seat 5: Tom Moss - 260,000 (21 BBs)  
Seat 6: Richard Fitzgerald - 50,000 (4 BBs)  
Seat 7: Michael Jensen - 417,000 (37 BBs)  
Seat 8: Mike Lang - 165,000 (13 BBs)  
Seat 9: Michael Sanders - 396,000 (33 BBs)

*\*Chip leader*

**About the final table:**

1st: Michelle Chin - \$88,126  
Hometown: Wichita, Kan.  
WSOP earnings: \$0  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

2nd: Mike Lang - \$54,468  
Hometown: Waukee, Iowa  
Occupation: Business owner  
WSOP earnings: \$0  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

3rd: Michael Sanders - \$39,642  
Hometown: Russellville, Ark.  
Occupation: Professional poker player  
WSOP earnings: \$15,169  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$391,997

4th: Jesse Wilke - \$28,317  
Hometown: Kenmore, Wash.  
Occupation: Professional poker player  
WSOP earnings: \$76,927  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$186,354

5th: Greg Jennings - \$22,021  
Hometown: Overland Park, Kan.  
Occupation: Business owner  
WSOP earnings: \$25,880  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$37,941

6th: Michael Jensen - \$16,797  
Hometown: Overland Park, Kan.  
Occupation: Swim instructor and professional poker player  
WSOP earnings: \$58,630  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

7th: Tom Moss - \$13,007  
Hometown: Lincoln, Neb.

Occupation: Semi-retired  
WSOP earnings: \$0  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

8th: Gregory Beaufait - \$10,223  
Hometown: Omaha, Neb.  
Occupation: Venture capitalist  
WSOP earnings: \$5,309  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$1,146

9th: Richard Fitzgerald - \$8,153  
Hometown: Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Occupation: Construction  
WSOP earnings: \$9,428  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$55,486

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  
EVENT #3: Kevin McLaughlin defeated 453 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$29,223  
EVENT #4: Chris Bibb defeated 122 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,249  
EVENT #5: Jared Mohnen defeated 124 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,414  
EVENT #6: John Reading defeated 117 players (\$365 O8) for \$10,531  
EVENT #7: Mark Evans defeated 149 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$12,737  
EVENT #8: Dan Lowery defeated 129 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,838  
EVENT #9: Brandon Fish defeated 122 players (\$580 NLH) for \$17,078  
EVENT #10 (The Main Event): Michelle Chin defeated 235 entries (\$1,675 NLH) for \$88,126  
EVENT #11: Duane Gerleman defeated 89 players (\$365 NLH) for \$8,545  
EVENT #12: Yashveen Mudireddy defeated 109 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$9,810

Duane Gerleman of Ridgeway, Iowa earned Casino Champion honors of the series following 1st-, 2nd-, 7th- and 14th-place finishes. In all, Gerleman earned 112.5 points toward the 12-tournament race besting second place John Reading by 17.5. The performance punches Gerleman's ticket to the 2015 National Championship where he'll compete alongside the Horseshoe Council Bluffs Main Event champion, Michelle Chin, for a piece of an up-to \$2,000,000 prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cashed in ring events earned 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).

For additional information please contact:

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at [lukasmwillems@gmail.com](mailto:lukasmwillems@gmail.com).