

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Foxwoods Casino
Mashantucket, CT
Event #6
Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$520 (+\$60)
Total Entries: 91
Prize Pool: \$45,900
May 17, 2015**



Roland Israelashvili Wins Third WSOP Circuit Ring

Mashantucket, CT (May 18, 2015) — Roland Israelashvili has been playing poker a long time, so it's no surprise that he's had a lot of success before today's tournament. Roland has cashed 42 times in the World Series of Poker, including his biggest cash, a 5th place finish in the 2012 \$50,000 buy-in Poker Players Championship.

On the WSOP Circuit, Roland has cashed 30 times and holds two rings, one from the Atlantic City Main Event in 2010 and another later that year at Council Bluffs. Four years and four months later, Roland can now add another item to his poker resume: three-time WSOP Circuit ring winner.

The sixth event at the World Series of Poker Circuit at Foxwoods Casino had 91 entries, creating a \$45,900 prize pool. The tournament started at 11am on May 17th, and by 10:30pm, the unofficial final table had been reached. Roland entered the final table second in chips behind chip leader Thomas Balla.

WSOP Circuit ring holder Baruch Thaler was another final table participant who was chasing points for the National Championship. Baruch exited in 5th place for \$3,282, but more importantly collected 25 points. Baruch now has 132.5 points which puts him in 45th place on the leaderboard, giving him a very good shot at earning a seat.

Play got heads up just after 1am when Kevin Balcom bowed out in 3rd place, and Thomas maintained his chip lead over Roland, holding 810,000 to Roland's 350,000. It looked as if Thomas would win his first WSOP Circuit ring as he had Roland all in on the turn holding a flush draw against Thomas's trip fours, but a river diamond kept Roland in contention and gave him the chip lead.

On the final hand, the flop came ace high and both players held an ace, but Roland's jack kicker was enough to win the title. Thomas was a gentleman in defeat, even after suffering such a bad beat a few hands prior. He politely stacked his chips onto Roland's stack and shook his hand, showing a bit of class not often seen at the poker table.

In his post-win interview, Roland was quite modest, explaining that playing poker is his living and he just played his game. "I wasn't going to travel anywhere for the World Series of Poker Circuit events, but Foxwoods Casino is close to home," Roland explained. He plans to spend two

months in Las Vegas for the WSOP as he does every year. Roland revealed that he has cashed three years in a row at the Main Event, and he obviously hopes to extend that streak this summer. “Last year I played 20 events, and I cashed in 10.”

While this tournament was no limit hold’em, Roland prefers to play Omaha/8, and says he’s had a lot of success in razz tournaments. “I love all the mix games.” While there are no more mix games on the schedule at the Foxwoods WSOP-C, Roland does plan to go home to Queens and rest for a few days before returning to play the main event.

Event #6 was the sixth of twelve gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Foxwoods Casino. The \$580 six-handed no-limit hold’em event attracted 91 players creating a \$45,900 prize pool. The top 12 players were paid.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Foxwoods Casinos’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.

For additional information please contact:

Rob Perelman (WSOP Media Coordinator) at rob@veerob.com.