

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, N.C.
Event #3
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 581
Prize Pool: \$174,300
April 17-18, 2015**



Matthew Lee Earns His First Gold Ring

Matthew Lee survives a long final table to take home the first place prize of \$36,598 in Event #3.

Cherokee, N.C. (April 19, 2015) -- James "Matthew" Lee survives a marathon final table in Event #3 -- \$365 No-Limit Hold'em to take home the first place prize of \$36,598 and a WSOP Circuit gold ring. The final table lasted nearly eight hours long, which was quite the difference from yesterday's two speedy final tables. The final table began Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Lee knocked out his final opponent, Tremayne Nunely, a few strokes after midnight on Sunday.

Lee has found some success previously at this stop, but nothing like this. Last November when the WSOP Circuit was at Cherokee, Lee cashes in two events for just over \$7,000. His bigger of the two cashes was a 13th place finish in the re-entry event.

"That experience helped me win this ring," said Lee about his 13th place finish in November. "When we were down to 13, I got a little antsy and just tried to push a little harder than I should have."

In this event Lee accumulated a large chip stack by the end of Day 1 and sat near the top of the chip counts as action headed into Day 2 with 22 players remaining. He played patiently during Day 2 and throughout the final table and it paid off handsomely for him with the likes of a WSOP Circuit gold ring.

Lee got interested in poker back in 2004 during the "poker boom". He won the third tournament he ever played. It was a \$27 re-buy tournament online and the top prize was a trip to Aruba that included a buy-in to a live poker tournament.

"Here's how novice I was, [I][played][a] \$27 re-buy and I didn't understand the re-buy process and I won that damn re-buy tournament, a trip to Aruba and never re-bought." said Lee about his first success in poker.

The instant success gave Lee the poker bug and he still playing 11 years later.

Lee is a stay-at-home dad from Lillburn, Georgia. Besides playing poker as a hobby, Lee flips classic trucks. He has been doing that for about two years, and says that he has flipped about 50 trucks.

Event #3 was the third of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Cherokee in Cherokee, N.C. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 581 players generating a \$174,300 prize pool. The top 63 players were paid.

Day 1 began Friday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Saturday at 2 p.m. with 22 players remaining. The tournament concluded Sunday at 12:05 a.m. near the beginning of Level 31.

Notes on the event:

- The final table lasted seven hours and 45 minutes long.
- This was the largest single-entry tournament at Cherokee this season with 581 entries.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

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 50 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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Cherokee:

EVENT #1: Tony Sewell defeated 466 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$30,050

EVENT #2: John Morris defeated 242 players (\$365 PLO) for \$17,787

EVENT #3: Matthew Lee defeated 581 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$36,598

With the third tournament wrapped up, nine more ring events remain at the Harrah's Cherokee series.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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