

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Harrah's New Orleans

Event #1

No-Limit Holdem

Buy-In: \$365

Total Entries: 298

Total Prize Pool: 89,400

April 30 – May 1, 2015

Eddie Pepper First Event at New Orleans WSOP Circuit

The Emotional Pepper Earned his First Major Victory, his First Circuit Ring, and over \$20,000

New Orleans (May 2, 2015) – Eddie Pepper became the first winner at this year's World Series of Poker Circuit at Harrah's New Orleans. He won the first tournament of the series—\$365 No-Limit Hold'em—earning \$21,455 in the process.

It was an emotional win for Pepper. After he collected the last of the chips at the final table, it took the newly-minted ring winner several minutes to compose himself before he could pose for the traditional winner's photo. But once he did, the smile on his face outshone the tears starting to well up in his eyes. "I don't know if it's ecstasy or relief," he said. "But I feel great!"

Pepper was humble in victory, and the 66-year old semi-retired dealer from Mississippi said he faced an uphill battle due to the length of the event. "These young guys, they have the durability, and I'm surprised I made it. It's as much a shock to me as anybody."

Pepper said most of the money will go toward his retirement. But the victory was as much about proving something to himself as it was about the money. "I've been playing poker since I was 11 years old," he said "And I've played against some pretty strong poker players when I was a teenager. And I've always felt I had this in me. This is the first opportunity I've had to show it."

The tournament was played over two consecutive days, starting Thursday, April 30. On Friday, 11 players returned at 2 p.m. for Day 2. Pepper secured his victory at about 6:15, after a little more than four hours of play on Day 2.

Full results from the event are available on WSOP.com.

At the conclusion of this event, Eddie Pepper jumps into the lead in the Casino Champion race. The player who accumulates the most overall points in the twelve gold ring tournaments at Harrah's New Orleans earns the title of Casino Champion and receives an automatic entry into the \$1 million 2015 WSOP National Championship. The winner of the Harrah's New Orleans Main Event earns an automatic entry to the National Championship as well. All players who cash in ring events will receive points that apply to both the Casino Champion race and the

season-long race to claim one of the 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 Southern California so far:

EVENT #1: Eddie Pepper defeated 298 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$21,455.

With the first tournament now wrapped up, there are still 11 more gold ring events before the WSOP Circuit at Harrah's New Orleans concludes on May 11.

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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