

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #6

Pot-Limit Omaha Hi-Low 8

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

Total Entries: 91

Prize Pool: \$27,300

September 21-22, 2015



Mark Smith Goes One-for-One in PLO Hi-Low

Stuart, Fla. semi-pro seizes opportunity to play live tournament, earns first gold ring.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (September 22, 2015) — Mark Smith of Stuart, Fla. cited “opportunity” as the reason he entered Event #6 of the Palm Beach Kennel Club’s World Series of Poker Circuit. The 36-year-old semi-pro and his mother are regulars at the PBKC. She sticks to hold’em while Smith has spent the last two years focusing on Omaha hi-low. Thus, when the WSOP came to town, a little card game between mother and son was a no brainer.

“Just opportunity; the fact that it came up,” he said of why he played the \$365 pot-limit Omaha hi-low tournament. “My mother told me about it and said I needed to go play. I said, ‘Sounds good.’ She’d love to play in it as well. We decided to send me in it since I’m a little more experienced in the hi-low.”

Fast-forward to Tuesday night and Smith is the WSOP’s most recent gold ring champion. At his mothers urging, he masterfully outlasted 91 players to earn \$8,192 as well as 50 points toward the Casino Championship race and his first gold ring. Remarkably, Event #6 marked his first time playing a live hi-low tournament.

“Really I kind of had the feeling [I was going to win it] the whole time,” Smith admitted. “Everything was going my way. I just kept playing my game and as long I stuck to my gameplan I knew it would turn out. It feels just as good as I thought it would. Everything worked out as planned.”

Smith began Day 2 leading the final seven players. Among them were Circuit regulars Jesse McVicker, who sat second, and Joshua Pender, who was toward the bottom of the counts. It took but a couple hours for the field to narrow to three as Mark Streckfus busted seventh, Tim Kline sixth, McVicker fifth and Pender fourth. Jeff Gershowitz was next to go in third leaving Smith to battle Williams Higgins heads up. Higgins held the chip lead, but after a two-hour battle it was Smith who went home with gold.

Smith’s victory marks his first WSOP-related cash. He is a semi-professional poker player who spends his time away from the felt buying and selling estates – a venture he partakes in with, you guessed it, his mother.

Event #6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 pot-limit Omaha hi-low 8 or better event attracted 91 players. The total prize pool came to \$27,300 and the top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Monday, September 21 at 5 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 17 (at about 3 a.m.). Day 2 resumed Tuesday at 4 p.m. with seven players remaining and action concluded toward the beginning of Level 24 (shortly after 8 p.m.).

Final results:

1st: Mark Smith - \$8,192 + Circuit gold ring
2nd: Williams Higgins - \$5,062
3rd: Jeff Gershowitz - \$3,604
4th: Josh Pender - \$2,618
5th: Jesse McVicker - \$1,939
6th: Tim Kline - \$1,464
7th: Mark Streckfus - \$1,126
8th: Ryan Gelsomino - \$882
9th: Stephen Novak - \$703
10th: David Bennett - \$570
11th: Benjamin Warren - \$570
12th: Lazaro Rodriguez - \$570

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Palm Beach Kennel Club:

EVENT #1: Joshua Beckley defeated 317 players (\$365 Monster Stack) for \$22,349
EVENT #2: Matthew Ezrol defeated 57 players (\$365 HORSE) for \$6,412
EVENT #3: Jonathan Ablu defeated 615 entries (\$580 NLH Re-Entry) for \$64,575
EVENT #4: John Vale defeated 98 players (\$365 NLH) for \$8,821
EVENT #5: Cody Pack defeated 107 players (\$365 NLH) for \$9,630
EVENT #6: Mark Smith defeated 91 players (\$365 PLO Hi-Low) for \$8,192

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Palm Beach Kennel Club's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 50 expected at-large WSOP Global Casino Championship bids awarded to the top point earners. More information on the season-ending event is available on WSOP.com.

All rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2015/2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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.

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