

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #8

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 95

Prize Pool: \$28,500

September 23-24, 2015



Alex Miller Wins Gold on Main Event Eve

Miller hones his skills in home games with Phil “USCphildo” Collins, wins \$8,551 at PBKC.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (September 24, 2015) — Alex Miller defeated Jim Choquette heads up in Event #8 of the Palm Beach Kennel Club Circuit Thursday afternoon. The victory in the \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament earned Miller \$8,551 along with his first gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship. For Miller, the victory marks his first WSOP-related in-the-money finish.

“The money is great, of course, but to be able to say I won a WSOP Circuit event, I’ll be proud of that the rest of my life,” Miller said. “I’ll forget about the \$8,500 eventually. Or I’ll spend it or I’ll lose it in future tournaments. The ring I’ll have forever. I can’t even fathom how good it feels.”

Miller is an entrepreneur and self-proclaimed recreational player. Now 30 years old, he began playing poker seriously while in college at the University of South Carolina. It was there that he met Phil “USCphildo” Collins. Some years later Collins would go on to finish fifth in the WSOP Main Event for more than \$2.2 million, but he didn’t always have a first class ticket on the gravy train.

“We were buds in college playing home games,” Miller said of Collins. “That’s where he actually learned. I was taking his money, then five or six years later he’s [finishing fifth in the WSOP Main Event].”

Playing against talent like Collins helped Miller to sharpen his game and put him in position to make deep runs like he did Thursday at PBKC. The field in Event #8 narrowed to just three remaining following Day 1 and Miller bagged the chip lead with nearly two-thirds of the chips in play. When Day 2 kicked off, it was a different story. He sputtered to start and it wasn’t long before he held the shortstack three-handed.

“I gave away half my stack with top pair versus an overpair,” Miller said. “I was a little downtrodden [...] I had difficulty pushing it out of my brain and I was down to 250,000 and not feeling good. I was probably in third at that point. It wasn’t a good feeling. Then things started to turn around and ended up working out.”

As he alluded to, Miller righted the ship and eventually bested Choquette after about 30 minutes of heads-up play. In addition to \$8,551 in prizes, the victory earned him something not even his former tablemate Collins has – a piece of WSOP hardware.

“I can’t even describe what’s going through my body right now. It’s awesome,” Miller said.”

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 no-limit hold’em event attracted 95 players. The total prize pool came to \$28,500 and the top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Wednesday, September 23 at noon and Day 1 wrapped toward the end of Level 21 (at about 3 a.m.). Day 2 resumed Thursday at 1 p.m. with three players remaining and action concluded toward the beginning of Level 23 (at about 2:15 p.m.).

Final results:

1st: Alex Miller - \$8,551
2nd: Jim Choquette - \$5,284
3rd: Joseph Patalano - \$3,763
4th: Cody Pack - \$2,733
5th: Tai Yuen - \$2,025
6th: George Novo - \$1,528
7th: Matthew Grisham - \$1,176
8th: Steve Katlin - \$921
9th: Alan Franco - \$734
10th: Kevin Manning - \$595
11th: Gary Bodley - \$595
12th: Michael Terrell - \$595

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
EVENT #7: Robert “Bobby” Hodson defeated 115 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$10,351
EVENT #8: Alex Miller defeated 95 players (\$365 NLH) for \$8,551

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.

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