

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Harrah's New Orleans  
Event #8  
No-Limit Holdem  
Buy-In: \$580  
Total Entries: 238  
Total Prize Pool: \$119,000  
May 18-19, 2016**

## **Janet Fitzgerald Wins Second Career WSOP Ring in Same Season**

**New Orleans, Louisiana (19 May 2016)** – Janet Fitzgerald won her second World Series of Poker Circuit ring after taking down the Harrah's New Orleans Event #8 (\$580 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$29,751. This tournament featured a \$580 buy in, and the 238 entries created a \$119,000 prizepool.

Fitzgerald won her first ever Circuit ring in a \$365 No-Limit Hold'em event at Tunica. In that event, she bested a field of 189 players to win her first ring along with \$14,739. This time around, she said she had to play a tougher field than she did in Tunica.

"These players were a lot better and more unpredictable as opposed to Tunica. I strictly played my cards in Tunica. I think I played a lot smarter here. I was more patient."

Fitzgerald started playing poker as a hobby in 1999, mostly very low limit stakes and at friends' home games. She just started playing tournament poker in the last three to four years.

"I started with just small \$30 entries. I didn't even start playing \$100 buy in tournaments until maybe two years ago," she explains.

Fitzgerald has come a long way from where she started, having amassed more than \$90,000 in earnings in the last year. She first played a World Series of Poker Circuit event at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in Florida. After cashing that event, some of the poker dealers encouraged her to travel to the Circuit in Lake Tahoe. She cashed in three events in Lake Tahoe and made two final tables. From that point on, she started traveling the Circuit regularly. After she won her ring in Tunica, someone told her about the [Circuit Leaderboard](#).

"I knew this might be my only year to play as much as I have. I worked really hard, I did really well. This will be my shot at going to Nationals, getting into the top 50. I decided I was gonna die trying. I was gonna give it all I got, which is why I'm here. So when I min-cashed the other night [in the Monster Stack] and only got 2.5 points, I was tied for 47th, 48th, 49th, and 50th. I knew I needed more points. I told myself that the reason I busted the Monster Stack when I did was so that I had a chance to register into the \$580."

When Fitzgerald returned to play Day 2, with seven payers remaining, she already had enough points to qualify into the [Global Casino Championship](#).

“The 25 points I had [to start the day], I knew locked me into Nationals. I was just excited about that. I was telling people this morning, ‘Even if I go out in seventh place, I’ve locked in Nationals, and I’ve made the money back that I invested at this Circuit stop.’ So I was just really excited about that.”

Fitzgerald plans to spend some time in Vegas this summer. She plans to play a few bracelet events, possibly the Millionaire Maker, and definitely some of the daily events held at the Rio. She will then travel to Cherokee in August for the Global Casino Championship where she hopes to [follow in the footsteps of Loni Harwood](#) and become the second (and back to back) female champion.

Full results from the event are available on [WSOP.com](#).

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Event #7 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah’s New Orleans. It attracted 238 players, generating a \$119,000 prizepool, and the top 24 places were paid. Day one started on Wednesday May 18th. A total of 7 players returned to play Day 2, and it played down to a winner Thursday evening. Play concluded in Level 36 at 7:15 p.m.

Final table results:

1st: Janet Fitzgerald - \$29,751 + Circuit gold ring  
2nd: William Thomas - \$18,388  
3rd: Jesse McVicker - 13,383  
4th: Waheed Atiqi - \$9,897  
5th: Brennan Benglis - \$7,434  
6th: Mary Ellen Roy - \$5,670  
7th: Robbie Matthews - \$4,391  
8th: Raja Chirumamilla - \$3,451  
9th: Nicholas Pupillo - \$2,752

At the conclusion of this event, Richard Sinclair maintains the lead in the Casino Champion race, but Brennan Benglis having made his second final table of the series in this event, is within 2.5 points of the lead. The player who accumulates the most overall points in the twelve gold ring tournaments Harrah’s New Orleans earns the title of Casino Champion and receives an automatic entry into the \$1 million 2016 WSOP Global Casino Championship. The winner of the Harrah’s New Orleans Main Event earns an automatic entry to the Global Casino 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 Global Casino 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 New Orleans so far:

EVENT #1: David Slaughter defeated 278 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold’em) for \$20,018.  
EVENT #2: Gerardo Tavira defeated 124 entries (\$365 Pot Limit Omaha) for \$10,414.  
EVENT #3: David Coolman defeated 307 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold’em Turbo) for \$21,643  
EVENT #4: Brandon Newhouse defeated 1,213 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold’em Re-entry) for \$64,596

EVENT #5: Jeffrey Trudeau Jr. defeated 247 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$18,156  
EVENT #6: Brandon Guillory defeated 262 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Six-Max) for \$20,830  
EVENT #7: Christopher Sheffield defeated 497 entries (\$365 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack) for \$32,052  
EVENT #8: Janet Fitzgerald defeated 238 entries (\$580 No-Limit Hold'em) for \$29,751

With this tournament now wrapped up, there are still 4 more gold ring events before the WSOP Circuit at Harrah's New Orleans concludes on May 23rd.

All rings at Harrah's New Orleans are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2015-2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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

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