



2016 WSOP OFFICIAL REPORT

CALVIN LEE WINS \$3K SIX-HANDED NO-LIMIT TITLE

High-stakes cash-game pro collects \$531,577 top prize in Event #21

Korean-born New Yorker seizes first career WSOP gold bracelet

Final table turns into marathon as fourth day gets added

Costa Rican Steven Thompson finishes as runner up

MEET THE LATEST WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION

Name: Calvin Lee

Birthplace: Seoul, South Korea

Age: 28

Current Residence: Old Tappan, NJ / Seoul, South Korea

Profession: Poker Player

Number of WSOP Cashes: 3

Number of WSOP Final Table Appearances: 1

Number of WSOP Gold Bracelet Victories (with this tournament): 1

Best Previous WSOP Finish: 214th (2015)

Total WSOP Earnings: \$579,440

Personal Facts: Lee holds a degree in economics from New York University

Winner Quote:

"It comes in waves. The adrenaline rush is so sick. Even when I was losing, I was feeling amazing. What is it they say? 'The second best feeling in gambling is losing....but I kept my eye on the prize and I never gave up.'"

Calvin Lee is the newest member of poker's gold bracelet club.

The 28-year-old high-stakes professional poker player won the \$3,000 buy-in Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em tournament, which was played over four days and three nights and just concluded on the ESPN main stage at the Rio in Las Vegas. An extra playing day was needed given the large field size and the grinding pace of action, which was the most cautious of any final table yet at this year's series.

The wait was well worth it for Lee, however, who collected a whopping \$531,577 in prize money, making this the biggest tournament win of his career. This was only the third time Lee has cashed in a WSOP event, although he admittedly doesn't play many such events, preferring instead to focus much of his time and attention on some of the biggest games in the world which are often spread in Macau (Asia).

Lee won his victory by prevailing at a final table which included a mix of professional players and amateurs. While several of the finalists had come close to winning a WSOP title in the past, only one player had previously achieved victory. That player was Will Givens, who ended up finishing fourth.

On an unscheduled fourth day that extended into overtime, the ultimate moment of triumph came when Lee scooped the final pot of the tournament, with a pair of sevens and a better kicker. Lee had battled back from a steep chip disadvantage at one point in a zig-zag battle that could have gone either way.

"The way it went, going so long like it did, the blinds were so high that it became like a crap shoot," Lee said afterward. "We only had about 15 big bets at the end; you would raise, then they'd move all in, and it was a race. It was very stressful. I got very lucky, and feel very fortunate."

Lee had the chip lead during much of the finale, until Thompson seized the momentum late. However, the player from Costa Rica who was hoping to become only the second WSOP champion in history from that Central American nation (Humberto Brenes remains the only champion, a two-time winner) ended up finishing second. His consolation prize came to \$328,487.

Lee was born in Korea and immigrated to the U.S. with his parents. He attended New York University and earned a B.A. in economics. Not exactly the conventional path of an economics graduate, Lee has nonetheless put his talents to good use as a poker pro over the last decade. While he rarely plays in major tournaments, he has been a steady figure in many of the most prestigious cash games in the world, many of which are held in Macau. Lee currently splits his time between the New York City area and his native hometown of Seoul.

"Growing up, I had the same story many people in my age bracket have – when I was in high school watching the World Series on TV on ESPN," Lee said. "I dreamed that someday maybe I could get here and to have that chance and actually win the bracelet means so much to me."

This tourney attracted 1,029 entrants which created a prize pool totaling \$2,809,170. The top 155 finishers collected prize money. Attendance was up over last year, when this same event attracted 989 entries.

Aside from the winner, here's a brief report of the other top finishers who made the final table:

Second Place: Steven Thompson, a 36-year-old poker player from San Jose, Costa Rica finished in second place. This was only his second time to cash in a WSOP event, after going deep in the other six-handed event, which was the \$1,500 buy-in tourney. He added \$328,487 to his poker bankroll for a fine effort.

Third Place: Mark Herm, from Royersford, PA survived three hours into Day Four, but then ran into trouble. He cashed for the 18th time at the series, duplicating his best previous effort which was also a third-place showing in an event two years ago. Herm did pocket his biggest win in this event, which amounted to \$224,805.

Fourth Place: Will Givens, from Centennial, CO and a graduate of Colorado State University, cashed for the 12th time in a WSOP event with this performance. He won a No-Limit Hold'em gold bracelet in 2014 and finished fourth in another. Givens certainly knows how to maneuver through large No-Limit fields given his recent resume. This time, he picked up \$156,281 in prize money.

Fifth Place: Martin Kozlov, from Lysterfield, Victoria (Australia) now has 11 cashes at the series, which includes four final table appearances. He's done well both in the Las Vegas events and the Asia-Pacific version of the series, held in Kozlov's home country – Australia. This was his best financial score of any WSOP finish, which paid \$110,389.

Sixth Place: Alex Queen, from Bethlehem, PA posted his 23rd series cash in this tournament. He collected \$79,246 in prize money.

This was the 21st event on this year's schedule. This leaves 48 gold bracelet events still to go in what promises to be the biggest and most exciting WSOP ever.

OTHER NOTABLE IN-THE MONEY FINISHERS:

Doug Polk, a gold bracelet winner (2014) and online poker savant, finished in 15th place.

Justin Liberto, a gold bracelet winner (2015) and WSOP gold ring winner, finished in 18th place.

Poker superstar, Daniel Negreanu, a six-time gold bracelet winner (1998, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2013, 2013) and Poker Hall of Fame member, finished in 19th place, making this the 86th cash of his career.

Joseph Cheong, who finished third in the 2010 WSOP Main Event Championship, finished 34th.

Tony Gregg, a gold bracelet winner who won the 2013 "One Drop" championship, cashed in 35th place.

Andy Frankenberger, a two-time gold bracelet winner (2011 and 2012), finished in 46th place.

Other poker notables who cashed 51st through 155th included – Brain Rast, Max Steinberg, Dan O’Brien, Tristan Wade, Dan Kelly, Dan Barbero, Matt Glantz, Eric Baldwin, Ryan D’Angelo, Brock Parker, Jeremy Ausmus, and Paul Volpe.

FUN FACTS:

Six-Handed No-Limit Hold’em debuted at the 2005 WSOP, due largely to the popularity to the game played online. That first such gold bracelet event was called “Short-Handed No-Limit Hold’em.” Since then, dozens of WSOP tournaments have been held in different varieties of games which have been dealt six-handed.

EVENT DIRECT LINKS:

For this event’s official final results (listing all players who finished in-the-money), please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/results.asp?grid=1232&tid=14921>

For Calvin Lee’s official player profile page, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/playerprofile.asp?playerID=185889>

For the live reporting logs for this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/updates.asp?grid=1232&tid=14921>

To access licensed images from this all other 2016 WSOP gold bracelet events, please visit:

www.pokerphotoarchive.com

For the live stream archive of this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/videos/?vcat=2>

(Note: Will appear 48 hours after event concludes)

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