

## **2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 12**

**Harrah's Cherokee**

**Cherokee, N.C.**

**Event #8**

**No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack**

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

**Total Entries: 961**

**Prize Pool: \$288,300**

**April 20-21, 2016**



## **Donovan Dean Wins the Cherokee Monster Stack**

**Donovan Dean defeats 961 players in the monster stack to earn \$54k.**

**Cherokee, N.C. (April 22, 2016)** -- The tournaments at Harrah's Cherokee continue to grow and the guarantees continue to get smashed. The monster stack event was expected to be big coming in with a guaranteed prizepool of \$150,000. The prizepool surpassed the guarantee easily and nearly doubled it. The tournament drew a staggering 961 entries generating a \$288,300 prizepool to make it the largest single-entry WSOP Circuit event ever at Harrah's Cherokee.

Coming out on top of the huge field was 24-year-old, Donovan Dean. Dean is new to the WSOP, but has already found quite a bit of success. He has cashed twice this series and now won his first gold ring.

"I didn't think I'd get [a ring] this quick you know," said Dean. "I think it's my fourth WSOP tournament ever."

Dean's victory awarded him \$54,777, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and 50 Casino Championship points. The 50 Casino Championship points gives Dean the lead in the Casino Championship race with just four events remaining. He picked up 10 points in the re-entry event by finishing 50th and now sits with 60 points for the series, which is five points ahead of Stephen Binkley, who currently sits second.

Binkley finished runner-up to Dean and is the only player this series to reach two final tables. He finished 8th in the opening event of the series and has a series total tournament earnings of \$37,348. Binkley's road to this final table was amazing. Midway through Day 1 he found himself with less than one ante. He made a comeback and managed to finish the day fourth in chips out of 51. He rode that big stack all the way to the final table and a runner-up finish.

Dean entered Day 2 as the chip leader and managed to hold onto that chip lead throughout most of the day. He entered the final table as the chip leader and then made quick work of his final table opponent's to earn the victory.

Arguably, Dean's toughest final table opponent was Blake Whittington. Whittington has had a great Circuit season, including prior success here at Cherokee. Whittington won his first gold

ring this year by taking down the PLO event at the Horseshoe Baltimore stop just last month. In November here at Cherokee, Whittington finished runner-up in the re-entry event to Cody Pack for a cash of \$73,436. This was Whittington's 15th cash of the season. Fortunately for Dean, Whittington was eliminated in 5th place for a score of \$14,176.

Dean is a professional poker player from Rainsville, Alabama. He mostly sticks to home games and cash games, but said that this tournament success may push him toward playing more tournaments. He said he may play in this weekend's \$1,675 Main Event, but has no other tournament poker plans at the moment.

"They are a grind. They take a lot of stamina," said Dean about tournaments.

-----

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harrah's Cherokee series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack tournament attracted 961 players generating a \$288,300 prizepool. The top 99 players were paid.

Day 1 began Wednesday at 11 a.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Thursday at 2 p.m. with 51 players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 11:35 p.m. Thursday midway through Level 31.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 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](http://WSOP.com).

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Harrah's Cherokee series:

EVENT #1: John Mason Jr. defeated 461 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$29,743  
EVENT #2: Stan Weiss defeated 3,067 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$158,768  
EVENT #3: Mike Bratovich defeated 559 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$35,224  
EVENT #4: Christopher Carey defeated 452 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$29,154  
EVENT #5: Kevin Sherrill defeated 431 players (\$365 NLHE 6-max) for \$29,739  
EVENT #6: Brandon Allen defeated 187 players (\$580 PLO) for \$24,312  
EVENT #7: Joseph Mattingly defeated 331 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$22,840  
EVENT #8: Donovan Dean defeated 961 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$54,777

With eight tournaments wrapped up, only four more ring events remain at the Harrah's Cherokee series.

All rings at the Harrah's Cherokee series are furnished by [Jostens](http://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](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at [ijhanson13@gmail.com](mailto:ijhanson13@gmail.com).