

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Bicycle Hotel and Casino

Bell Gardens, Ca.

Event #3

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 130

Prize Pool: \$39,000

March 22-23, 2016



Eshed Hadaya Inspired to Grind Circuit, Wins Ring

Israeli musician and businessman sets out on the Circuit trail after befriending seven-time ring winner Cory Waaland.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 23, 2016) — Eshed Hadaya won his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring Wednesday afternoon on what he has dubbed the “Wonder Waaland Poker Tour.”

Hadaya had played a tournament with one of the most successful players in the history of the Circuit, Cory Waaland. The two became close friends and after talking with Waaland, Hadaya was ready to take to the road and embrace the Circuit grind.

The 37-year old Israeli native defeated Ken Coulson heads-up in a \$365 no-limit hold'em event to best a field of 130 players, take home \$10,915 and his first career ring. It was an accomplishment he's been striving for since starting down this road.

“I just feel like I've gotten something off my chest that I really needed to do,” said Hadaya. “Which was win a ring.”

The tournament started on Tuesday afternoon, but after 21 scheduled levels of play, Hadaya was heads-up with Coulson. They bagged up the chips and came back on Wednesday to finish their battle with Hadaya holding about a 2-to-1 chip advantage. The break was something that Hadaya used as a way to get his mind straight before the final day.

“To be honest, since I had the whole night to sleep on it and think about the heads-up, I was preparing myself to the fact that I just want to play well,” said Hadaya. “If it's in my cards to win it, then I'll win it. If not, then I just want to play well. Coming here and wanting to play right and make the right moves was all I could think about.”

Away from the table, Hadaya is a self-described “internet geek.” He helps run his families jewelry business and uses his computer skills to skills to sell his father's jewelry online to the U.S. and Canada.

“My father is an artist,” said Hadaya. “I'm an artist as well, but I'm kind of the tech guy in the family.”

He's been in the family jewelry business for the last 15 years, but the freedom that his job gives him allows him to travel around the world and play a full slate of poker tournaments.

"I'm playing poker full-time," said Hadaya. "But I'm not doing it full-time in the sense that it's not a thing I'm dependent on for something I need in life. I'm working, but I have poker as a very serious hobby."

Poker isn't the only serious hobby that Hadaya has found success in. He's a singer/songwriter and if you see him around, he generally isn't too far away from his guitar. He's liable to put on a performance wherever he is.

"I'll go around with my guitar and I'll play in airports," said Hadaya. "I'm bringing music to places where I feel that music can, you know, relieve people's bad thoughts or something. When you are waiting in line at the airport, sometimes it's nice to hear live music. It's a good instrument to give out energy."

Hadaya has plans to put out an EP soon and travels back to Israel to get in the recording studio. The day before he started this tournament, he had found out that one of his old songs had gotten some radio airtime. It was almost an omen for his tournament performance.

"I was like 'I'm running so good right now that even my old songs are being played,'" said Hadaya with a laugh.

This was the third of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 130 players. The total prize pool came to \$47,400 and the top 15 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Monday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. The final table was reached just after midnight. Play wrapped up about an hour later with seven players remaining. The final seven came back on Tuesday, March 21 at 1:00 p.m. and a winner was crowned at 3:30 p.m. The entire duration of the final table lasted almost four hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Hotel and Casino:

EVENT #1: Truong Nguyen defeated 995 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$55,200

EVENT #2: Jose Ramirez defeated 158 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,795

EVENT #3: Eshed Hadaya defeated 130 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,915

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bicycle Hotel and Casino'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 the 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.

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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