

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, Indiana

Event #11

Bounty No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 269

Prize Pool: \$53,800

October 23-24, 2016



Nate Crawford Wins His Own Bounty, First Ring

Local salesman collects more than \$13,000 in his return to tournament poker

Hammond, Indiana (October 27, 2016) — Nate Crawford is the champion of Event #11 at Horseshoe Hammond, defeating a field of 269 entries to earn his first gold ring. Crawford also collected the top prize of \$13,178 and 50 points toward the season-long race for seats in the Global Casino Championship.

Crawford is a 33-year-old cable salesman from Chicago. He used to play the game more regularly, but family responsibilities have taken over his primary focus in recent years, limiting his opportunities to play tournaments, in particular. He decided to come take a little shot with the Circuit in town, and it paid off with a big victory in one of the series' most popular events.

"People don't ever believe me," Crawford said of his own playing style. "I just play premium cards. I only wear shades and a hoody so I can watch other people — so I can figure out what they're doing." Crawford said he showed down big hands all throughout Day 1, and he ran up a huge stack in the first few levels on his way to collecting 10 bounties. "I hit a lot of sets, so....," he laughed. "I had quads... Maybe it's beginner's luck all over again. I'll take it."

It wasn't all smooth sailing, though, as is often the case in tournament poker. During the middle stages of Day 1, Crawford took a bad beat that almost cost him the tournament. His pocket tens were cracked by an opponent's pocket eights, and he admittedly tilted off most of his hard-earned stack thereafter.

The dinner break interrupted what might have been a complete catastrophe, and Crawford came back from the break and "got back into the groove," as he said. By the time the day concluded with 17 players, he was once again near the top of the leaderboard, tied for third place entering Day 2.

Crawford proceeded to plow through the remaining field on Monday, collecting five more bounties on the way to a heads-up match against fellow-Chicagoan Geremi Wicinski. Wicinski

began the match in a big hole that he could not climb out of, and Crawford soon collected the last two \$100 bounties — Wicinski's and his own — and a gold ring to mark his first Circuit victory.

Event #11 was the eleventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$365 bounty event drew a total field of 269 players, generating a prizepool worth \$59,800. The final 27 players finished in the money.

Day 1 began at 12:00 PM on Sunday, October 23 and concluded at the end of Level 18 with 17 players remaining. Day 2 was held on Monday, October 24 beginning at noon, and the last hand was dealt around 8:00 PM.

All players who cashed in ring events earned points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of the limited at-large seats in the 2017 WSOP Global Casino Championship. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

All rings at Horseshoe Hammond are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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