

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 13  
Harrah's Cherokee  
Cherokee, North Carolina  
Event #5  
Pot-Limit Omaha Re-Entry  
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)  
Total Entries: 277  
Prize Pool: \$83,100  
November 28, 2016**



## **Phong Nguyen Grabs Gold with Red Hot Final Table**

**Phong Nguyen rolled through the Pot-Limit Omaha final table like a wrecking ball, claiming his first gold ring.**

**Cherokee, North Carolina (November 29, 2016)** – Phong Nguyen snagged his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring in Event #5: \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha Re-Entry by conquering a field of 277 players. The tournament concluded Tuesday night at the WSOP Circuit stop Harrah's Cherokee, with Nguyen topping the final table in a dominating fashion.

Nguyen held a commanding lead going into the final table. He had at least an 8:1 chip advantage over most his opponents. His superior position warranted a strategy that eventually secured him the top prize of \$19,945 and the Circuit title.

“I knew I was going in as a massive chip leader, so I was just putting on tons of pressure, because I knew everybody was just trying to chip up, double up, push, or fold basically,” Nguyen explained.

Stealing tons of blinds over the course of the final table, Nguyen simply forced his competitors to shove, or bleed out. The tournament was going at a seemingly average pace till the field reached six remaining. At that time, Nguyen took over, or, in his words “I just got hot.” Players suddenly began to drop like flies, with Nguyen scoring a majority of the knockouts.

When heads up action started, it only took Nguyen two hands to eliminate the runner-up James Tian. There was nothing, and no one, who could stop 25-year-old from Greenville, South Carolina who is an avid poker player, relatively new to the PLO scene.

“I just dabbled in Omaha recently, probably this year. I enjoy Omaha, but it's such a high variance game,” said Nguyen. “I'm primarily a cash game player.”

Cash games are where Nguyen sees there being more of a skill advantage. Although Nguyen does not play a lot of live tournaments, and does not play cards professionally for that matter, the freelance programmer certainly has been blessed with an unforgettable triumph in the field of poker.

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Event #5 was the fifth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harrah's Cherokee series. The \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha Re-Entry tournament attracted 277 players generating a \$83,100 prizepool. The top 30 players were paid.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Circuits twelve combined gold ring events earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the season.

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.

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

EVENT #1: Jarrett Mullins defeated 2,211 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$101,190

EVENT #2: Sergiu Nagit defeated 449 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$29,633

EVENT #3: Robert Reed defeated 382 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$42,019

EVENT #5: Phong Nguyen defeated 277 players (\$365 PLO Re-Entry) for \$19,945

This was the fourth gold ring handed out at the Harrah's Cherokee series. Eight more gold rings and Circuit titles are still to come.

All rings at the Harrah's Cherokee series are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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