

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, North Carolina
Event #6
No-Limit Hold'em (30 Minute Levels)
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 515
Prize Pool: \$154,500
November 29, 2016**



Gold Ring Number Two for Michael Sanders and Company

With a devoted support system around him, Michael Sanders bagged his second career gold ring by winning Event #6 at Harrah's Cherokee.

Cherokee, North Carolina (November 30, 2016) – Michael Sanders earned his second World Series of Poker ring in the wee hours of Wednesday morning at the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit stop. A close group of friends and Sanders' loving girlfriend followed the action as the 32-year-old poker pro defeated a field of 515 players to win Event #6: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em (30 Minute Levels), taking the top prize of \$33,224.

When asked to compare the triumph to his first gold ring victory, a quick comment shot out from one of his rail members. "Can you even remember that," snapped the bystander, evoking a chuckle in the room. Sanders debut Circuit title came back in 2013 at The Lodge Casino in Black Hawk, Colorado where he won the \$580 buy-in, No-Limit Hold'em tournament. The milestone could indeed be tough to recall after countless poker endeavors in between then and now. On top of that, Sanders' priority is not solely set on gold rings.

"It was so long ago. I really, more just play to try and make money, provide for my family," explained Sanders.

The Arkansas resident has an 8-year-old son, Beckett, and 7-year-old daughter Keada. Another loved one of Sanders is his girlfriend, and arguably his #1 fan, Molly Mossey. Although Mossey was not able to be physically present in Cherokee, she kept in touch with him throughout the entirety of the tournament, providing immeasurable support along the way.

There were numerous onlookers in attendance, cheering on Sanders and others while they battled it out for the Circuit gold ring. It took nearly two hours of heads up play before Sanders finally routed Steven Snyder, the reigning Main Event champion at Harrah's Cherokee. Sanders was asked what it meant to him to have such a great supporting cast around him.

"That's super awesome, super awesome. I would have definitely fell asleep without these guys," Sanders exclaimed.

The final three contenders were all familiar friends, which drew a large group of spectating peers. Their rambunctious rail was perseverant, entertaining, and all around encouraging to have around during the extensive final stage, which stretched just past 5:00 am. In the mix was Josh Reichard, a fellow poker pro and Sanders' carpool comrade.

"Me and Josh winning a ring on the same day... we rode down here and we just knew it was our stop," said Sanders. "We're not done."

Reichard claimed his fifth gold ring by taking down the Six Max event just hours before Sanders' first-place accomplishment. It has been an extremely hot start for the dynamic duo. They will look to continue their early success in the days to come. There are six more ring events to go at the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit stop, including a High Roller tournament and of course the Main Event.

Event #6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harrah's Cherokee series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em (30 Minute Levels) tournament attracted 515 players generating a \$154,500 prizepool. The top 54 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 #4: Josh Reichard defeated 518 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max) for \$34,188
EVENT #5: Phong Nguyen defeated 277 players (\$365 PLO Re-Entry) for \$19,945
EVENT #6: Michael Sanders defeated 515 players (\$365 NLHE 30 Minute Levels) for \$33,224

This was the sixth gold ring handed out at the Harrah's Cherokee series. Six 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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