

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 13  
The Bicycle Hotel and Casino  
Bell Gardens, Ca.  
Event #7  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)  
Total Entries: 169  
Prize Pool: \$50,700  
December 7-8, 2016**



## **Maxwell Lineberger Wins \$365 No-Limit Hold'em**

**Local professional wins second career ring and \$13,675 in the \$365 no-limit hold'em**

**Bell Gardens, Ca. (December 7, 2016)** — On Thursday evening, Maxwell Lineberger proved that winning his first ring last year wasn't a fluke. He added a second Circuit ring to his trophy case after winning the \$365 no-limit hold'em at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino.

Lineberger came out on top of a final table that featured longtime pro Chris Grigorian and WPT runner-up Massoud Eskandari. He defeated Alex Shelton heads-up to secure the victory and defeat a field of 169 entries to win \$13,675.

"I guess you could say it's some validation," said Lineberger. "Hard work pays off and I'll stay grinding. Another win always feels good."

Lineberger's first Circuit title came at the Bike as well. In March of 2015, Lineberger took down the massive, re-entry event that drew 1,177 entries. He earned \$62,685 for the win and that's the largest score of his career.

The second ring was for less money, but the score puts him in the thick of the Casino Championship race, which is a goal of his.

"I'm hoping to get the Casino [Championship] at this one and qualify for the [Global Casino] Championship," said the 29-year-old poker pro.

A seat in the Global Casino Championship is a stepping stone to his poker dream; a bracelet.

"I'm always going for the bracelet and if I could get to the [Global Casino] Championship, I could maybe get one there," said Lineberger. "Every poker player wants a bracelet and it's most definitely on my bucket list."

Lineberger is atop a three-way tie for the lead, but he would lose out in a tiebreaker since he hasn't won the most money of the three.

"I need one more deep run and I should be alright," he said of his chances of taking down the Casino Champion title.

Lineberger picked up poker during his time as an undergrad at UNLV. He learned the game in the poker epicenter of the world, but moved back to the Southern California area after he was finished with college.

He mostly grinds tournaments in the Los Angeles area. He'll dabble in cash "every once in a while," but can mostly be found battling out for a tournament win. With a couple of top notch Southern California pros at the final table with him, Lineberger was forced to stay patient and find good situations to get his chips in.

"I just knew my position at the table," said Lineberger. "I knew I had Chris [Grigorian] on my left and Massoud [Eskandari] on my right. So I just picked my spots carefully."

Along with the money and the ring, Lineberger earned 50 points and moves into a tie at the top of Casino Championship leaderboard. Lineberger moves into a three-way tie atop the leaderboard with Sohale Khalili and Greg Armand with 52.5 points. Currently, Khalili has the edge in the tiebreaker with the most money won of the three players.

This was the seventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 169 players. The total prize pool came to \$50,700 and the top 18 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Wednesday, December 7 at noon and reached the final table around 11:00 p.m. The day's action wrapped up around midnight and all 10 players returned for Day 2 at 1 p.m. on Thursday. The final hand was dealt around 6:00 p.m., making the total duration of the finale about seven hours.

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

EVENT #1: Alex Massman defeated 242 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,795  
EVENT #2: Jerry Rojas defeated 171 players (\$365 NLH Bounty) for \$9,230  
EVENT #3: TJ Thondup defeated 1,245 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$77,300  
EVENT #4: Greg Sanchez defeated 122 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,245  
EVENT #5: Sohale Khalili defeated 109 players (\$580 NLH) for \$16,345  
EVENT #6: Eugene Ji defeated 101 players (\$365 Omaha hi-lo) for \$9,080  
EVENT #7: Maxwell Lineberger defeated 169 players (\$365 NLH) for \$13,675

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bike'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 60 expected at-large National 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).

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](http://WSOP.com).

For additional information please contact:

Steve Schult (WSOP Media Coordinator) at [Steve.Schult1@gmail.com](mailto:Steve.Schult1@gmail.com).