

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Rio
Las Vegas, Nevada
Event #10
N0-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 780
Prize Pool: \$63,900
Feb. 23-24, 2017**



Eric Blair Wins His Second Gold Ring

Eric Blair bests a 780-player field in the monster stack event to win his second career WSOP Circuit gold ring.

LAS VEGAS (February 24, 2017) -- The Monster Stack event at the Rio was a hit. The \$365 buy-in tournament drew a huge field of 780 entries, which is impressive for any tournament. But for this tournament it was an especially impressive turnout. The monster stack had just one flight and was a freezeout - a rarity in tournament poker these days. The 780 unique players generated a prizepool of \$234,000.

Las Vegas poker pro Eric Blair came out on top of the 780 entries after two long days of poker to win \$46,803 and his second career WSOP Circuit gold ring.

"I like the non re-entries because it's more pure," said Blair. "You're in or your out, so it's real cut throat. It's fun."

Blair started Day 2 of the tournament fifth in chips with 52 players remaining. He said that coming into the day he just wanted to try to make good decisions and hopefully win his showdowns.

"You have to run really well in an 800-player field," said Blair.

Blair played well enough and won enough showdowns to reach the final table as the chip leader. It was no easy road to get to the gold ring though. He had to get through a tough final table that included two players that had more than 20 WSOP cashes. Jeff Sluzinski (4th), was making his 38th career WSOP cash and Nancy Nguyen (6th) was making her 21st career WSOP cash. This was Blair's 30th career WSOP cash.

Of Blair's 30 cashes, he has reached four WSOP final tables and won two gold rings. Blair won his first gold ring at the 2014 Lodge Casino Circuit Main Event. He took home \$116,325 for that win.

This win didn't award Blair as much money as his first one, but this one had a little extra value to Blair because it was in his hometown of Las Vegas. Blair will hope to keep the run good going

for the remainder of the series. He plans to play in the series' \$750k guaranteed Main Event on Sunday.

"I hadn't been deep in a tournament for awhile, so it was a pretty nice rush," said Blair.

Event #10 was the tenth of 13 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Rio. The \$365 no-limit hold'em monster stack tournament attracted 780 players generating a \$234,000 prize pool. The top 81 players were paid.

Day 1 began Friday at noon and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Saturday at 1 p.m. with 52 players remaining. The tournament ended at about 1:05 a.m. Sunday.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Rio twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry in 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 Rio series:

EVENT #1: Nate Bandy defeated 1,498 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$75,364

EVENT #2: James Alexander defeated 255 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$18,744

EVENT #3: Mordechai Kirschenbaum defeated 180 players (\$365 NLHE/PLO 6 max) for \$15,124

EVENT #4: Chris Papastratis defeated 418 players (\$250 Seniors) for \$18,395

EVENT #5: Adam Ross defeated 300 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$21,595

EVENT #6: Kenny Nguyen defeated 329 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$23,196

EVENT #7: Seth Foster defeated 151 players (\$365 PLO) for \$12,231

EVENT #8: Chris Leong defeated 376 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$24,812

EVENT #9: Kyle Loman defeated 213 players (\$365 HORSE) for \$16,617

EVENT #10: Eric Blair defeated 780 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$46,803

With 10 tournaments wrapped up, only three more ring events remain at the Rio series.

All rings at the Rio series are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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