

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harrah's Atlantic City
Atlantic City, New Jersey
Event #8
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 164
Prize Pool: \$49,200
March 16, 2017**



Vinny Pahuja Picks Up First Gold Ring

Prominent poker player, Vinny Pahuja, takes down Event #8 for debut gold ring.

Atlantic City, New Jersey (March 17, 2017) – The World Series of Poker crowned a deserving champion Friday afternoon. Seizing victory at the Harrah's Atlantic City Circuit stop was Vinny Pahuja, a WSOP regular with noteworthy numbers. The New York native conquered a field of 164 entrants in Event #8: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry to win \$13,284, 50 Casino Championship points, and his first career gold ring.

Pahuja has been steadily been making a name for himself in the poker world since 2007. In his almost ten-year career, Pahuja has over two million dollars in live earnings and multiple first-place finishes. However, on the WSOP stage an outright title has proved elusive, until now.

"It's more of a relief I think than anything else. I wouldn't say it's something that I put on the top of my... like to-do list," Pahuja stated. "It's always good to get a win, I'll tell you, because it's hard to get a win... You have to have so many things go your way."

Three instances in his Circuit career, Pahuja was left to settle for a runner-up finish. The narrowly missed, gold ring opportunities took place back in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

"I don't grind the Circuit as hard as I use to. I'll play the occasional Circuit event if I'm local," Pahuja mentioned.

A close call that came more recently for Pahuja was his third-place, Main Event finish at the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit in January of this year. Admittedly, the only reason Pahuja attended the stop was because his brother, Mukul Pahuja, an incredible poker player in his own right, had free rooms at the casino.

The \$125,946 score in Cherokee gave Pahuja a good points base for a run at the Global Casino Championship, which, in turn, sparked his ambition toward the Atlantic City Circuit.

"I know the fields are small here, so the tournaments are easier to win," said Pahuja. "If you're going to point chase this a good spot to do it. So, it worked out."

Stemming from his current triumph, Pahuja now has 102.5 points overall, putting him in the top 60 on the National Leaderboard. A top-50 spot is needed for an automatic berth to the GCC. However, on a smaller scale, Pahuja is in striking distance for Casino Champion honors at Harrah's Atlantic City, an alternate path to the GCC.

"I'm kind of tired from the last two days; I'm not gonna lie," said Pahuja when asked if he will jump in the Main Event.

Including the Main Event, there are four more chances for Pahuja to accumulate points toward the race for Casino Champion. He is only 2.5 behind the currently leader, but for now the 37-year-old has earned a well-deserved break.

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harrah's Atlantic City. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 164 players generating a \$49,200 prizepool. The top 18 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 Atlantic City series:

EVENT #1: Freddy Ferrell defeated 232 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$17,401
EVENT #2: Phillip Levine defeated 573 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$36,106
EVENT #3: Nick Bevilacqua defeated 260 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$19,110
EVENT #4: John Iraj defeated 129 players (\$580 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$18,062
EVENT #5: Daniel Swift defeated 232 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max) for \$18,789
EVENT #6: Daniel Buzgon defeated 197 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$15,366
EVENT #7: Matt Paoletti defeated 83 players (\$365 Omaha 8) for \$7,968
EVENT #8: Vinny Pahuja defeated 164 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$13,284

This was the eighth gold ring handed out at the Harrah's Atlantic City series. Four more gold rings and Circuit titles are still to come.

All rings at the Harrah's Atlantic City series are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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