

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
The Bicycle Hotel and Casino
Bell Gardens, Ca.
Event #4
Omaha Hi-Lo
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 123
Prize Pool: \$36,900
March 7-8, 2017**



Joseph Hoffman Wins \$365 Omaha Hi-Lo

Professional poker player and mixed games enthusiast takes \$10,330 and first ring in only non no-limit hold'em event of the series.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 8, 2017) — Professional poker player Joseph Hoffman plays mostly limit mixed games. Apparently, he's very skilled at them.

The 55-year-old from Laguna Woods, California won his first career tournament on Wednesday afternoon at the Bicycle Casino. He won the \$365 Omaha Hi-Lo to earn a Circuit ring and \$10,330.

"It feels great," said Hoffman. "It feels excellent. It's my first ring. I've been knocking on the door for a while and I'm glad I finally broke through."

In the early part of Hoffman's career, he focused mainly on cash games and didn't get into tournaments more seriously until recently. When he's not in the live \$20/\$40 or the \$40/\$80 limit mixed cash games, he's been finding time to start playing some tournament poker.

In almost exclusively limit mixed games tournaments, he's had several second and third place finishes over the last several years, but on Wednesday he defeated Larry Kantor heads-up to take home his first piece of hardware.

"I go to a lot of different tournaments and I go to Vegas and Commerce and here at the Bike," said Hoffman on where he's been playing tournaments. "I still play online even though I'm a little leery of it. I stay tuned up like that. I love playing the game and I am still learning. I am always learning."

Aside from his first win, this is also Hoffman's biggest career score. It brings his career earnings over the \$50,000 mark, which is impressive for almost exclusively small field, mid-stakes limit tournaments.

Hoffman doesn't have a single no-limit hold'em tournament cash to his name. That might change in the future with his newfound interest in tournaments, but he feels that the limit versions of poker is the more skillful variant.

“The no-limit tournaments I see as more of a crap shoot,” said Hoffman. “The limit games you are limited with your bad beats. You can only lose a limited amount and you can always make a comeback. In no-limit [hold’em], you can have all your chips in with the best hand, but then a miracle card can come and beat you. I enjoy all the games, though.”

Along with the money and the ring, Hoffman earns 50 points towards the Casino Champion race. This puts Hoffman in a three-way tie for second place with three of the four other ring winners at the stop. Danny Illingworth has a slight lead with his win and a min-cash to give him 52.5 points. The winner of the Casino Championship will earn an automatic seat into the Global Casino Championship this August in Cherokee, North Carolina.

This was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$365 Omaha hi-lo attracted 123 entries. The total prize pool came to \$36,900 and the top 15 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Tuesday, March 7 at 2 p.m. and 18 players survived. They returned on Wednesday, March 8 at 1 p.m. to play down to a winner and the final table was reached around 3:15 p.m. The final hand was dealt around 8:45 p.m, making the total duration of the finale about five and a half hours.

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

EVENT #1: Fredrick Arni defeated 1,472 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$87,010

EVENT #2: William Wolf defeated 127 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,665

EVENT #3: Danny Illingworth defeated 121 players (\$580 NLH) for \$16,495

EVENT #4: Joseph Hoffman defeated 123 players (\$365 Omaha H/L) for \$10,330

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.

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.

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