

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

The Bicycle Hotel and Casino

Bell Gardens, Ca.

Event #6

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 198

Prize Pool: \$59,400

March 9-10, 2017



Neil Ho Wins Six-Max Title at the Bike

Long-time cash game grinder wins first ring and \$16,345 in \$365 no-limit hold'em six-max event.

Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 10, 2017) — If \$5/\$10 no-limit hold'em cash games were running when Neil Ho arrived at the Bicycle Casino on Thursday afternoon, he wouldn't have ended up with a World Series of Poker Circuit ring.

Ho considers himself a cash game pro, but jumped into the \$365 no-limit hold'em six-max event on Thursday afternoon when there were no cash games running that he wanted to play. He ended up coming out on top of a 198-entry field to win \$16,345 and his first Circuit ring.

"I didn't play to play yesterday," said Ho. "I came to play \$5/\$10 no-limit [hold'em] and they didn't have a game. I was bored so I figured 'Let's play a tournament.'"

His case of boredom worked out well for him, but just because Ho doesn't play a ton of tournaments doesn't mean he is an easy mark for the table. Ho's tournament resume has over \$250,000 in earnings and cashes that date all the way back to 1999.

He's had a fair amount of success in tournaments and, when he takes the time to play one, he enjoys the feeling of taking it down.

"Obviously, it's always good to win," said Ho. "Whether it's a big or small tournament. It's always good to win."

Ho was born in Vietnam, but made his way across the Pacific Ocean and settled in the United States during the Vietnam war. He picked up poker along the way and has been making a living ever since.

"The war in Vietnam ended in 1975," said Ho. "I was part of that journey. I was part of a mass exodus from Vietnam to America. It's a blessing to here. We can play poker without any repercussion."

Even though he devotes most of his time to playing cash games, Ho intends to dive into the tournament scene this summer at the World Series of Poker. If he catches a few breaks at the Rio, he hopes to end up with a more comprehensive poker jewelry collection.

“This summer, I plan to devote the entire month and a half in Vegas,” said Ho. “I’m going to focus a lot on the tournament. This year, I’m going to make a real commitment. Let’s hope for the best. This is the first year that I’m going to play the entire month and a half over there.”

For somebody who doesn’t play a lot of tournament poker, Ho put on a clinic at the final table. He came into the final table with the chip lead and never let it go.

“You know, you play like a chip leader is supposed to play,” said Ho. “You jab, jab and move, you know? Fly like a butterfly and sting like a bee. Things like that. Then you slow down a little bit. Then they figure it out. They three-bet me quite often later on. So, I wait for a hand and then counterpunch, you know?”

Along with the money and the ring, Ho earns 50 points towards the Casino Champion race. He moves into a four-way tie for third place with four of the six other ring winners at the stop. William Wolf currently is in the lead with 55 points. Danny Illingworth and Brian Vickers each have 52.5 points and are tied for second. 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 sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$365 no-limit hold’em six-max attracted 198 entries. The total prize pool came to \$59,400 and the top 21 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Thursday, March 9 at noon and a final table was reached around just before midnight. The players bagged up a few minutes later and came back to play down to a winner at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 10. The final hand was dealt around 4:00 p.m., making the total duration of the finale about three 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

EVENT #5: Albert Ng defeated 187 players (\$365 NLH) for \$15,585

EVENT #6: Neil Ho defeated 198 players (\$365 NLH Six-Max) for \$16,345

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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