

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, North Carolina
Event #11
No-Limit Hold'em Turbo (1 Re-Entry)
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 528
Prize Pool: \$158,400
April 22, 2016**



J.W. Wins Turbo For First WSOP Gold Ring

Local poker player, John Wilder, captures debut Circuit title with turbo triumph.

Cherokee, North Carolina (April 22, 2016) – The third turbo of the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit stop saw John Wilder (J.W.) capture his first World Series of Poker gold ring. The local poker player, and comedian, made it through 528 entries in Event #11: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Turbo (1 Re-Entry). The tournament took just over twelve hours to complete.

“It's the world man... All I wanted was a little validation. It felt really, really good to get the final table the other day, but this right here is just fantastic.”

Merely two days prior to his victory, Wilder made his first WSOP final table appearance in Event #9, also a turbo. Wilder attributes his fast-paced tournament success to his experience playing online.

The Greensboro, North Carolina local has been playing poker for a long time. A side hobby/occupation Wilder has come to embrace is standup comedy. He usually hits the stage at local open mics, and such.

“I started doing that to get away from poker for a little while because it [poker] was so consuming. I couldn't stay gone too long.

Wilder seemed to be back, taking the Cherokee Circuit stop by full force, but in truth it was some close friends who kept him afloat in the early stages of the series, enabling Wilder to reach his crowning achievement.

“I was dead broke after two days of being here,” said Wilder. “Tanner saved my trip. Johnny here too has also helped me tremendously.”

Tanner Martinelli and John Gallaher each helped Wilder enter tournaments after he was financially down. In fact, his two backers were actually at the Event #11 final table with Wilder. Martinelli placed 5th, and Gallaher finished in 4th.

Like Wilder, Tanner Martinelli also resides in the entertainment arena, but as an actor. The two bunked as roommates during the Harrah's Cherokee series, and were constantly filling the rail when the other was duking it out on the felt.

Wilder had a fairly large supporting cast throughout the final stage of the turbo, despite it extending past four in the morning. A huge moment came when Wilder made a hero call with ace high against his heads-up opponent, Alan Sacks.

The gutsy move proved to swing momentum towards Wilder. From there, the 27-year-old never looked back, ultimately scooping the final pot. Along with a debut gold ring, Wilder was awarded \$34,055 and 50 Casino Championship points.

Event #11 was the eleventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harrah's Cherokee series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Turbo (1 Re-Entry) tournament attracted 528 players generating a \$158,400 prizepool. The top 54 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 Cherokee series:

EVENT #1: Bryan Carter defeated 3,196 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$165,400
EVENT #2: John Nelson defeated 612 players (\$365 NLHE Doule Stack Turbo) for \$38,560
EVENT #3: Jessie Bryant defeated 595 players (\$580 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$62,476
EVENT #4: Robert Hankins defeated 594 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max) for \$43,662
EVENT #5: David Chapman defeated 334 players (\$365 PLO Re-Entry) for \$23,051
EVENT #6: Ron Germany defeated 635 players (\$365 NLHE 8 Max 30 Min Levels) for \$41,914
EVENT #7: Ricardo Eyzaguirre defeated 1,446 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$74,853
EVENT #8: David Aker defeated 301 players (\$1,125 NLHE) for \$70,731
EVENT #9: Chase Blanton defeated 402 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$26,533
EVENT #11: John Wilder defeated 528 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$34,055

This was the tenth gold ring handed out at the Harrah's Cherokee series. Two more gold rings and Circuit titles are still to come.

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

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