

## **2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 13**

**Harrah's New Orleans**

**New Orleans, La.**

**Event #1**

**No-Limit Hold'em (30-minute levels)**

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

**Total Entries: 275**

**Prize Pool: \$82,500**

**May 11, 2017**



## **Curtis Terry Wins Opening Event in NOLA**

**Local part-time player posts a win close to home, takes early points lead**

**NEW ORLEANS, La. (May 12, 2017)** — Curtis Terry is the newest first-time winner on the WSOP Circuit. Terry outlasted a field of 275 entries in the series' opening event at Harrah's New Orleans, winning his first gold ring and the top prize of \$19,803. The victory also earned him 50 points and an early lead in the race for Casino Champion at this venue.

The champ is a 54-year-old car salesman from nearby Metairie, a western suburb of New Orleans. "I've got a good heart," he said when asked to describe himself. "I believe in the good man upstairs. That's what I live by."

Terry is proud to be a self-made man, too, having started his own car business in his backyard when he was just 17 years old. That small gig eventually became his full-time career, and poker remains nothing more than a hobby despite some significant success as a part-time player. "It's something I do on the side just for fun," he explained. "I've been playing poker for 11 or 12 years."

He didn't even have to think about how long it's been. The number is an easy one to remember for residents of this area who, like Terry, measure time a little differently than most.

Just shy of 12 years ago, in the summer of 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region, taking more than 1,200 lives and causing physical damage soaring into 12 figures. It's become the new calendar in these parts, with milestones marked in reference to the storm rather than the date on the wall.

It's no coincidence that Terry found poker in the aftermath of the devastation. "I was a big golfer," he continued. "When Katrina hit, all of our golf courses got wiped out and a lot of my friends moved away. So, basically, I didn't have anything else to do."

After being displaced from home for a few weeks himself, Terry returned to the city as quickly as possible to assist in the rebuilding process. Although he had his group of car dealerships to tend to, he decided to start a clear-cutting company on the fly and got straight to work putting the pieces of his city back together.

In the time since, Terry has gone back to work in his car lots, and he's continued to see his poker game progress despite limited opportunities to play. This most recent result is the second-largest on his record, and it brings him to within striking distance of six-figure career earnings. Much of that has been won right here at Harrah's New Orleans.

"Basically, I was just playing solid," Terry said in his postgame interview after his victory. "Picking my spots and being aggressive when I had to be aggressive. And things worked out for me."

Terry was second in chips when the final table was reached, and he wasted no time moving himself to the top of the counts. He had close to 100 big blinds after eliminating Matt Michel in seventh place, and he went on to dispatch long-standing chip leader Joey Wideman in fourth place not long thereafter.

The third-place knockout went to Terry, too, flopping trip queens against queens up to send Easton Oremann to the cashier and set up a heads-up match against Robert Browning. Browning entered the duel with about a 2:1 chip deficit, and Terry put him away within just a few hands.

A man of god, Terry credits "the good man upstairs" for much of his success, as well as for helping him find his lovely wife and source of inspiration, Trish. Twice, in fact.

"I was married, and god gave me a second chance," he said. "I'm back with her again after seven years." The couple now makes poker travel a part of their relationship, taking short trips a handful of times per year. "Since I got a second chance with my sweetheart, I let her come with me now," he smiled.

---

Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's New Orleans. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event drew a field of 275 entries, generating a prize pool worth \$82,500. The final 30 players finished in the money.

The tournament was essentially held from start to finish on Thursday, May 11 beginning at 11 a.m., and the last hand was dealt around 1:30 a.m. the following morning.

---

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harrah's New Orleans' 12 ring events earns the title of 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 the limited at-large bids. More information on the points system is available on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

All rings at Harrah's New Orleans are furnished by [Jostens](http://Jostens), the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or visit [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

For additional information, please contact Eric Ramsey (WSOP Media Coordinator) at [eric\\_ramsey@me.com](mailto:eric_ramsey@me.com).