



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Horseshoe Southern Indiana (Elizabeth, Ind.)	Date:	3 October 2017
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Six Max	Entries:	99
Buy-in:	\$580	Prizepool:	\$49,493

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### **SIMON SAMOKOVSKI WINS SIX MAX FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> GOLD RING**

*Faced with powerhouse opponents, Simon Samokovski comes out ahead.*

Simon Samokovski won his first World Series of Poker gold ring after holding his own against a handful of Circuit giants. The 35-year-old, born in Sofia, Bulgaria, defeated a field of 99 entrants in Event #6: \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Six Max (One Re-Entry) at the Horseshoe Southern Indiana Circuit stop.

Going into Day 2 of the tournament, there were a total of 14 gold rings spread among the five finalists, none of which belonged to Samokovski. This did not deter the resident of South Point, Ohio though.

When Samokovski was shown a post referring to him as the "odd man out" among the remaining Circuit title holders, he thought "I'm glad to be the odd man out because I'm going to get my first ring today."

Motivated by the challenge, Samokovski faced his decorated opponents head on, ultimately outlasting seven-time gold ring winner Josh Reichard, five-time gold ring winner Kurt Jewell, and one-time gold ring winner Danny Lawson. Austin Reilly, also with one gold ring, was Samokovski's final adversary.

"He had me out chipped quite a bit," said Samokovski. "I just kept changing it up a little bit;" A strategy that eventually led Samokovski to victory.

Aside from the gold ring, Samokovski also walked away with \$14,849 and 50 Casino Championship points. The momentous achievement was deeply gratifying for the resident of South Point, Ohio who only just began playing poker full time.

“I had a really good career and I left my career almost three years ago to pursue poker. I gave up a really good job,” Samokovski stated. “So, I took a big chance, and we’ll see how it keeps going.”

Not only was it a stamp of validation for Samokovski’s decision to leave his previous occupation to become a professional poker player, the win was also a nice tribute to his loving mother, and late father. In fact, his father’s passing was a factor in his life change.

“It was after my dad passed away. I decided to just go for it. Life is short,” said Samokovski. “My mom is a big supporter.”

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Simon Samokovski	Age:	35
Nationality:	BG / USA	Profession:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	Sofia, Bulgaria	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	South Point, Ohio	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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