



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw Casino and Resort (Durant, OK)	Date:	4 November 2017
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Monster	Entries:	954
Stack		Prizepool:	\$285,600
Buy-in:	\$365		

STEVEN WILLIAMS WINS MONSTER STACK

Arkansas native earns first ring of the series, his career and \$54,367.

Steven Williams is a recreational poker player, but he spends most of his time with poker professionals. He showed on Saturday afternoon that he may not play for a living, but he can certainly hold his own on the felt.

Williams won the first ring of the World Series of Poker Circuit stop at Choctaw Casino and Resort on Saturday afternoon. He defeated a field of 954 entries to win his first ring and \$54,367.

"It feels great," said Williams after his win. "I had three final tables before in the same event three years in a row. I got second, third and fifth. So, I wanted to finish it off and not get fourth."

The 42-year-old from Little Rock is good friends with poker pros and fellow Arkansas residents Michael Sanders and Mike Cordell. The three of them were fixtures in the Arkansas poker scene and have been improving their chops in games around the state.

"I grew up with these guys back in Russellville," said Williams. "There was nothing to do except play pool and bowl."

The win comes at a special time for Williams. Mike Heath, the man who introduced poker to Williams, passed away this past summer.

“It’s kind of touching to win one for Mike,” said Williams. “He’s responsible for most of these guys. Him and his dad, Robert Heath. They taught me how to play when I was 14 years old and I’ve been playing ever since. Just recreationally for a long time, but with these guys, you’re never good enough.”

Williams is a recently retired state employee. Throughout his time as a government employee, Williams didn’t have much time to travel and play tournaments. Now that he’s retired and moving on to another chapter in his life, he has a little more time to get out and play tournaments.

He made his way west from Arkansas to Oklahoma and is excited to be here for the whole series.

“I don’t get a chance to play too many tournaments,” said the Little Rock resident. “I think this is only the fifth or sixth Circuit I’ve gotten to. So, it’s kind of nice to come in and have a week to know that you have shots to play because I don’t get a lot of entries in.”

For his win, Williams earns 50 points and takes a very early lead in the Casino Championship race. With plans of a full schedule, Williams has a serious chance to keep his lead and take down the Casino Champion title.

“I might pick up a few events that I might not have normally played because of the lead and the good start,” he said about his plans for the series.

On the felt, the final table was smooth sailing for Williams. He won a massive pot at the outset of the 10-handed unofficial final table and never looked back.

“I was second in chips when we came to the final table with 10,” said Williams. “The chip leader just barreled into me when I had queen-jack on a queen-nine-deuce flop. Queen on the turn and a nine on the river. He just went barrel, barrel, barrel with tens. It gave me a bunch of chips.”

From there, Williams was never in danger of going bust.

“It worked out as best you could ever hope for.”

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Steven Williams

Nationality: American

Birthplace: Little Rock, AR

Current Residence: Russellville, AR

Age: 42

Profession: Retired State Employee

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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