



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop: Choctaw Casino and Resort
(Durant, OK)
Event: Big O
Buy-in: \$365

Date: 6 November 2017
Entries: 192
Prizepool: \$57,600

ROBERT COTE SECURES FIRST RING IN \$365 BIG O

PLO specialist from Houston wins first ring and \$14,976 in a five-card variant of his best game.

Robert Cote plays poker for a living, but very rarely gets to play Big O. That didn't stop the Texas native from winning his first Circuit ring in the game.

Cote defeated a field of 192 entries to win his first ring and \$14,976 in the \$365 Big O event at Choctaw Casino and Resort. He's been a fixture on the Circuit for several years and had a few close calls at a ring. On Monday evening, he finished the job and took home his first WSOP Circuit title.

"It feels good," said Cote. "It feels great. I've been playing these things forever and have had a lot of close calls. I'm thankful I've had such a big support group and we go over hand histories together and we just never stopped trying. Now, I got one and we just go from here."

Cote doesn't get a chance to play Big O very often, but he isn't a stranger to the general principles of the game. The 35-year-old that turns 36 on Tuesday makes his living playing pot-limit Omaha and pot-limit Omaha hi-lo in the games around the Houston area.

His experience playing those games gave him the confidence to jump in the five-card variant of what he plays for a living.

"I mean, I'm acclimated to the four-card game and I play a lot of hi-lo as well," said Cote. "So, adding the fifth card is a lot the same, it just adds a little bit more variance. So, I decided to

try this out and just play a little more snug, but in reality it's almost the same as hi-lo, so it's not that tough. These games don't come about unless you are at this casino. We don't play this in Houston."

While the 192-entry field didn't generate anywhere close to the massive prizepool that a lot of the hold'em events have, that didn't stop a giant rail from forming around the final table as Cote inched closer and closer to his first win.

The former bartender is well-liked by many of the regulars that travel to different stops and he's built up a large group of fellow poker players to bounce ideas off. Having so many of his friends in attendance for his win only made it even more special for Cote.

"These are some of the best guys I've ever met while I've been traveling," said Cote. "These guys are from Arizona, New Mexico, Florida, Vegas. And we always end up together. It's really good that we are all here for this, together. And it's my birthday tomorrow, so let's rock and roll man."

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Robert 'Bob' Cote
Nationality: American
Birthplace: Cypress, TX
Current Residence: Houston, TX

Age: 35
Profession: Professional Poker Player
WSOP Bracelets: 0
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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