



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Horseshoe Hammond (Hammond, Ind.)	Date:	17 October 2017
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack	Entries:	627
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$188,100

KEVIN EYSTER GRABS GOLD IN MONSTER STACK

Poker pro drops to smaller stakes and wins big with friends by his side.

Kevin Eyster added a third piece of World Series of Poker gold to his collection on Tuesday. The 28-year-old poker pro took down Event #5: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack (One Re-Entry) at the Horseshoe Hammond Circuit stop.

The Monster Stack drove deep into the night, finishing off with a lengthy heads-up battle. Eyster's final opponent was Kevin Saul, a fellow WSOP regular and gold ring winner who he has been acquainted with for many years.

"I would have much rather played a random, you know, someone with less experience," said Eyster. "He's a really confident player and really good hand reader. It was tough. I didn't want to play him for sure."

Even with a \$15,000 pay jump and Circuit title on the line, it seemed a casual matchup between the two competitors. There was mutual respect and chatter was consistent, including banter with a spectating duo on the rail.

Throughout the final stretch of Event #5, gold bracelet winner Ben Keeline, and two-time gold ring winner, Kzysztof Stybaniewicz watched as Eyster and Saul faced off.

The two onlookers are rooming with Eyster during the Horseshoe Hammond Circuit series and Keeline even finished 7th in the very tournament he was sweating his friend in.

“I back a few people. These are two of my horses and they are also good friends of mine,” explained Eyster. “On this trip, we are staying together, so it makes it a lot easier. We all share pretty good comradery.”

Around 2:00 a.m., in Level 35, a moment of triumph was finally had. In the end, Saul was left to settle for a runner-up finish worth \$24,432 and Eyster was the one posing for a winner's photo with his traveling buddies by his side.

With the victory, came Eyster's second career gold ring, and third piece of WSOP gold. The poker pro from Lafayette, Louisiana lays claim to a gold bracelet as well, a prestigious prize he captured back in 2014.

Eyster was awarded \$622,998 for his gold bracelet achievement. His current Monster Stack finish was good for \$39,499. Although the cash prize dwarfs in comparison to his largest score to date, Eyster was grateful for the payday.

“This one feels great. I really needed this win,” Eyster expressed “I had to drop down to these stakes. This is the first tournament I played on the dropdown stakes,”

“I’m like ‘Wow, they’re already calling me back to the big leagues,’” he said with a laugh, then transitioned to a more serious tone. “I’ve been on a pretty big down swing. It’s definitely a big score for me.”

Eyster, admittedly, has been in a slump lately, one which caused him to humbly seek out lower buy-ins. The Louisiana native is usually playing in tournaments with five-figure entry fees and does so quite often.

“About two weeks out of the month I’m traveling, and all summer,” Eyster stated “I’d say like, a little more than half the year I’m gone.”

A voyage to Horseshoe Hammond has proven profitable for Eyster so far. He will most likely stick around for the rest of the Circuit series and the Main Event is right around the corner.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Kevin Eyster	Age:	28
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	Lafayette, La.	WSOP Bracelets:	1
Current Residence:	Lafayette, La.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	1

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