



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Potawatomi (Milwaukee, Wis.)	Date:	12 February 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Main Event	Entries:	604
Buy-in:	\$1,675	Prizepool:	\$906,000

KEVEN STAMMEN WINS POTAWATOMI MAIN EVENT

Long-time poker pro pairs WSOP gold bracelet with Main Event ring.

A Main Event Champion was crowned Monday evening at the World Series of Poker Circuit stop at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino. Keven Stammen outmatched 604 entrants to be the last man standing in Event #10: \$1,675 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event. The 32-year-old poker pro earned his first Circuit gold ring, and second piece of WSOP gold.

Stammen has been playing poker for a living for about 12 years. During his time as a professional in the WSOP arena, Stammen has racked up nearly \$1.1 million in earnings and owns one of the most coveted trophies in poker, a gold bracelet. Stammen won his bracelet back in 2009 at the 40th annual World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

"Feels similar," Stammen replied when asked to compare his two WSOP title experiences. "I always wanted to play that Cherokee thing, so that's pretty cool... I'm ready."

Both conquests were good for a six-figure payday. Stammen's bracelet win was worth \$506,786 and his recent ring victory granted him \$190,265. On top of the prize money and gold ring, Stammen will receive an automatic, (\$10,000) seat in the Global Casino Championship, which will be held at Harrah's Cherokee in August.

To reach the momentous achievement, Stammen had to navigate through three days of tournament poker and a tough final table. The Ohio native began by surviving Flight A of Event #10. His stack moved in roller-coaster fashion throughout the day, but he eventually finished with a stable 110,500 in chips.

Stammen chipped up during Day 2. Towards the end of the night, players were engaging in plenty of banter and Stammen was certainly not absent from the action. Some would even say that Stammen's drinking was getting to him a bit.

"I like to drink and play. I normally don't feel it too much till the end," said Stammen "I'm a veteran on the drinking and playing."

Owning the intoxication, Stammen trudged through to Day 3 with a middle-of-the-pack stack. Seven other players were featured in Day 3 and there was no lack of competition.

Gold bracelet winner John Reading entered the finale as chip leader. Stammen was also up against ten-time gold ring winner Maurice Hawkins, three-time gold ring winner Andy Philachack, and Jose Montes, owner of one gold ring.

Even with all the decorated players at the final table, it boiled down to Stammen and Michael Crawford, an opponent Stammen had tangled with before.

"I got bluffed by the guy that got second, Mike. He bluffed me on a big pot when there were six left. I thought I was done for sure," said Stammen "But, I fought through, ended up getting aces a few hands later, got me some of my chips back."

Heads-up action turned bleak for Crawford when Stammen hit a nut flush and took over 80% of Crawford's stack with him. Shortly after that, Stammen sealed the deal, becoming the Potawatomi Main Event Champion.

The payout puts Stammen's WSOP earnings a step away from \$1.3 million. The experienced poker player from Ohio was playing for more than just his statistics though.

"Got a baby on the way, so I gotta make that money. She's 18 weeks," Stammen mentioned. Then, he was asked if it was going to be a boy or a girl. "She don't wanna know. She's a gambler too," Stammen replied with a laugh.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Keven Stammen	Age:	32
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	Coldwater, Ohio	WSOP Bracelets:	1
Current Residence:	Coldwater, Ohio	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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