



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw Casino and Resort (Durant, OK)	Date:	8 January 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry	Entries:	3,052
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$915,600

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### LOU GARZA WINS CHOCTAW RE-ENTRY RING

*22-year-old poker pro earns first ring and \$158,104 after defeating massive field in \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry*

Most successful tournament pros can point to a win that padded their bankroll and vaulted them to a point in their career where they can play bigger, make more money and have an overall better quality of life.

Lou Garza, a 22-year-old poker pro from San Antonio, may have found that stepping stone on Monday evening. Garza defeated a whopping 3,052 entries in the \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry event to win \$158,104 and his first Circuit ring.

He defeated Daniel Jones heads-up to earn by far the biggest score of his career. The fledgling poker pro made his living in local games in his hometown, but thanks to his first ring, he may become a staple on the tournament circuit.

"I've been trying to follow the Circuit for the past few years, but I could only go like to certain places because of finances," said Garza after his win. "So, now I'm definitely going to be picking up some stops and going to those stops."

He's just barely legal to play poker in most casinos, but his age hasn't stopped him from being a responsible adult. His first thought after his win was about his three children and how he can use the money to give them a better life.

"I'm just thinking about my kids and thinking about what I can do for them," said Garza. "That's kind of it."

Garza battled on the felt for three long days of no-limit hold'em. His win was prophesized by Jones at the start of Day 2. Garza started the day short stacked, but the eventual runner-up thought it was Garza's tournament to win.

"Starting Day 2, I had like 50k in chips and was short stacked," said Garza. "I had like 12 blinds. [Daniel Jones] was sitting on my right at the first table. He doubles me up the very first hand. He said 'Nice hand' and a couple hands later, I double up one more time through a well-known pro and this guy tells me 'You know what dude? I just had a flash of you winning the whole tournament in my head. I just think you're going to win the whole thing.' I was like 'Wow.'"

It was Jones that predicted Garza's victory, but it was Garza that predicted their eventual heads-up battle. Garza told Jones at that same table that he thought it was going to be the two of them battling heads-up for the ring. Both of their predictions came to fruition.

Throughout Day 2, Garza and Jones battled and were moved to the same table several times, with their seats generally right next to each other. In a field as large as Choctaw's re-entry, it's tough to get enough history to have reliable reads, but over the course of a 14-hour Day 2 and a long final table, there was plenty of history for when they started the final table and eventually heads-up play.

"It was tough because the whole tournament I was to his left," said Garza. "And I was being really aggressive throughout the whole tournament. Then, he was on my left at the final table. He was playing back at me really well. It was actually a lot harder because we both know that we both play really aggressively with our hands."

Garza had nothing but good things to say about his opponent's play. It was a tough heads-up battle that went back and forth for hours. In the end, Garza credited his mindset as the reason to why he was able to pull it out.

"It was just about keeping my composure," said Garza. "Things got a little rocky after the queens hand. After that, I knew it was going to be a fight, but I just stuck with it and tried to pick up some chips."

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Lou Garza

Nationality: American

Birthplace: San Antonio, TX

Current Residence: San Antonio, TX

Age: 22

Profession: Professional Poker Player

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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