



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

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|---------------|--|------------|-------------|
| Circuit Stop: | Harrah's New Orleans (New Orleans, LA) | Date:      | 13 May 2018 |
| Event:        | No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry              | Entries:   | 1,340       |
| Buy-in:       | \$365                                  | Prizepool: | \$402,000   |

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### VALENTIN VORNICU MAKES CIRCUIT HISTORY

*Vornicu wins \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry in New Orleans to give him his 11<sup>th</sup> ring and put him alone atop the all-time ring leaderboard.*

The last stop of the 2017-2018 Circuit season started off with Circuit history. Valentin Vornicu won his 11<sup>th</sup> career ring in the \$365 no-limit hold'em re-entry event, which broke his tie atop the career ring leaderboard with Maurice Hawkins and set the new benchmark for career Circuit titles.

Vornicu defeated 1,340 entries and earned \$64,205 for his historic ring. He defeated a talented final table that featured bracelet winner Jonathan Hilton, who finished third, and defeated Clinton Boynes heads-up for the title.

"It's the first time I'm at the top of the leaderboard with no ties," said the 34-year-old poker pro. "First, I tied Alex [Masek] and then I was tied with Maurice [Hawkins]... I just am happy with the win itself. I just like winning tournaments. It's nice to win one of these bigger fields for more money. Now, I have more money to spend at the WSOP and fire HORSE events and stuff."

Despite the 11 rings, Vornicu doesn't travel very often for Circuit events. The San Diego resident spends most of his time in the Pacific time zone, but he made his way down to New Orleans to make sure he locked up a spot in the 2018 Global Championship.

"I came for the points," said Vornicu. "A lot of people think that I travel all the time. I stay local. I've got like five stops. I want to relax half the year. What's the point of grinding all this poker if you can't enjoy the beach for x amount of time. When I travel to the East Coast,

it's mostly for points. Or maybe I've never been somewhere, but New Orleans is a fun place to come."

Vornicu dominated short-handed play and ended up steamrolling his way to victory, but he came into the final table as one of the shorter stacks.

"I made the final table and I was just grinding my way trying to get points for the [Global Casino] Championship. That was my main goal. I was like 'All of these guys have all these chips.' Winning wasn't in my sights. I was trying to get points and get that \$10K seat."

Thanks to some interesting ICM dynamics, and a little bit of luck, Vornicu was able to outlast the competition until he was able to use his skill and take control of the table.

"Everybody pretty much doubled up eight-handed," said Vornicu. "Including myself. So, it was a game of 'Cat and Mouse.' There were like three super short stacks under 10 big blinds and there were pay jumps of a like two or three thousand [dollars]. Now, all of a sudden, you're just kind of waiting around for people to bust and everybody is just waiting around.

"Then, I started getting a stack. If nobody was going to take command of the table, then I'm going to take command of the table. I'm going to win the tournament... I KO'ed every single person from eight-handed on."

Vornicu ran away with it after he built up a stack, but he had nothing but positive things to say about the other players at the table.

"I was really impressed with David [Slaughter]," said Vornicu of the sixth place finisher. "I just want to put that out there. I thought he played really great. Usually at these final tables, there are five or six players that were making mistakes, but here, everybody played pretty well."

With another win on his resume, Vornicu basically locked up a seat in the 2018 GCC by adding another 50 points to his season total.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Valentin Vornicu

Nationality: American

Birthplace: Bucharest, Romania

Current Residence: San Diego, CA

Age: 34

Profession: Professional Poker Player

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 10

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## DIRECT LINKS

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[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)