



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Harrah's New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)	Date:	14 May 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em	Entries:	208
Buy-in:	\$580	Prizepool:	\$104,000

ABRAHAM ARAYA WINS THIRD RING IN NEW ORLEANS

East African native and Texas resident continues his chase towards the American dream with his third career ring and \$27,043.

Poker is more than just a hobby for Abraham Araya. It was a tool that helped him achieve the American dream.

The 41-year-old East Africa native won his third ring on Monday evening in New Orleans. Araya defeated 208 entries in the \$580 no-limit hold'em to earn his third Circuit title and \$27,043.

It was his first win in just over six years after winning two in the span of a couple months. The wait and the overall improvement in his game made the win extra special for the Carrollton, TX native.

"The last one I had was six years ago," said Araya. "So, I waited a long time. When I won them, I got lucky, pretty much. I didn't think I was great player, but over the last six years, I thought I was getting better and I couldn't win. It was just evading me and this one is very sweet."

Araya made his mark on the Circuit by winning the Choctaw main event, his first ring, in January of 2012. He won another ring in Atlantic City a couple months later, but it was the Choctaw victory for \$270,380 that was what helped set up his current business.

He left East Africa in his early 20s and came to America. He worked as an airplane mechanic for 18 years and was laid off just before his win in Oklahoma. With his win in Choctaw, he was able to set up a business for himself.

“We have a book and video selling company,” said Araya. “We work with Amazon. Mostly my wife does it when I travel.”

Owning a business allows him the freedom to travel for poker tournaments and continue to improve his game. As gratifying as it is to win his third ring, he’s just as excited about the improvements he made to his game over the years.

“I eliminated a lot of bad situations,” said Araya. “When I won the first two, I put my money in wrong and it would come out good. But I didn’t know I was getting it in wrong. Now, I recognize when to push and when to lay down. I feel like I won this tournament by playing poker. By outplaying people. In the past it wasn’t like that.”

Araya immigrated to America in search of a better life. Thanks to a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck, Araya seems to have achieved what he was looking for.

“Dreams happen here in this country,” said Araya. “I’m very grateful. I never knew what poker was growing up. I was just watching TV and watching Moneymaker win got me started. Now I’m here. It’s the American dream.”

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Abraham Araya

Age: 41

Nationality: American

Profession: Business Owner

Birthplace: East Africa

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Current Residence: Carrollton, TX

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 2

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