



2011-2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Eight
IP Biloxi Casino Resort and Spa
Event #2 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry
Final Report
Buy-In: \$345
Total Entries: 477
Total Prize Pool: \$138,807
October 28-31, 2011

THE STARS ALIGNED

Pharmacy Student Beats 477 Entrants, Gets First Ring in Second WSOPC Event Ever.

Biloxi, MS (October 31, 2011) — Before the early morning hours of October 31, Thomas Wilkie's largest poker score stood at about \$2,500. That all changed when he beat 477 players in the \$345 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry Ring Event to take home the lion's share of the \$138,807 prize pool — \$29,552.

"When the tournament started I was hoping to do slightly better than a min cash," Wilkie said. "A min cash is about the best I've done in a big event like this, so \$29,000 is just insane. I'm still in shock."

Wilkie is a 23-year-old student from Batesville, Mississippi. He studies pharmaceuticals at Ole Miss and is expected to graduate in the spring of 2012. Regardless of his success on the felt, poker will continue to only be a hobby of his.

Event #2 at the IP Casino Resort and Spa was only the third tournament Wilkie played in with over a \$200 buy-in and only the second Circuit event he had ever entered. He says the prize money isn't life changing, but it will give him the freedom to play more, and play a bit higher.

The re-entry event featured two starting days and they combined on Day 2 with 55 players remaining and 54 spots getting paid. With 35 players left, Wilkie was all-in and at risk with pocket Queens versus the pocket Aces of his opponent. The deck hit Wilkie, giving him a full house on the flop and the pot awarded him about 20 percent of the total chips in play.

"Anything less than a win at that point was not acceptable," Wilkie said.

Propelled by his great play and fortunate spots, Wilkie came to the final table as the chip leader. The rest of the table stacked up as follows.

Final Table:

Seat 1	David Sidler	Atlanta, GA	228,000
Seat 2	Ken Pikop	Ocean Springs, MS	323,000
Seat 3	Robert Harwell	Pass Christian, MS	946,000
Seat 4	Drew Fanning	Madison, WI	700,000
Seat 5	Tony Thrash	Sharpsburg, GA	211,000
Seat 6	Thomas Wilkie	Batesville, MS	1,015,000

Seat 7	Steve Giddings	Ruston, LA	442,000
Seat 8	Freddie Ardoin	Lacassine, LA	206,000
Seat 9	Gene Dudek	Houma, LA	704,000

Winner Interview:

How does it feel to get your first ring? — “Amazing. I don’t even know what to say right now. I’m at a loss for words. It’s one of those things I hoped I would do eventually, but I never imagined it would be right now. It’s like the stars just aligned. This is only the second Circuit event I’ve ever played in. It definitely took a lot of luck, but I feel like I played well.”

When you look back at this ring in five years, what is it going to represent? — “It’s going to represent the biggest accomplishment in my poker career so far. It’s a big deal. The ring is definitely a bigger deal than the money to me. When play started today I was thinking about what I’d be willing to give up for the ring, and it was definitely a large percentage (of the prize money). To get a ring you have to do everything in a short time period. It wouldn’t shock me if I won \$28,000 this year, but the fact that I did it in three days and I outlasted 477 people means a lot more than just the money. It’s a sense of accomplish that I’ve done something this weekend that nobody else has done.”

This is the second of 12 ring events slated to take place at IP Biloxi Casino Resort and Spa. Winners of all events will receive first-place prize money and the coveted WSOP Circuit ring. In addition, the winner of the Main Event will receive a seat to the \$1 million Circuit National Championship in Las Vegas. An additional seat will be awarded to the individual who earns the most Circuit points at this stop. The IP currently has a four-way tie at the top of the leaderboard between the four ring event champions.

Final Results:

<u>FINISH</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>
1	Thomas Wilkie	BATESVILLE, MS, US	\$29,552
2	Drew Fanning	Madison, WI, US	\$18,272
3	Gene Dudek	HOUMA, LA, US	\$13,348
4	Steven Giddings	Ruston, LA, US	\$9,896
5	Robert Harwell	PASS CHRISTIAN, MS, US	\$7,442
6	Freddie Ardoin	LACASSINE, LA, US	\$5,677
7	Ken Pikop	OCEAN SPRINGS, MS, US	\$4,392
8	Tony Thrash	SHARPSBURG, GA, US	\$3,446
9	David Sidler	ATLANTA, GA, US	\$2,742
10	Raymond Walton	CARTERSVILLE, GA, US	\$2,212
11	Arthur Kissinger	AUSTIN, TX, US	\$2,212
12	John Gonzalez	GREENVILLE, NC, US	\$2,212
13	Zachary Evans	PANAMA CITY, FL, US	\$1,809
14	Russell Ivy	Carrizo Springs, TX, US	\$1,809
15	Ronald Held	METAIRIE, LA, US	\$1,809
16	Nelson Solar	DENHAM SPRINGS, LA, US	\$1,498
17	Judith Barnosky	PORT CHARLOTTE, FL, US	\$1,498
18	Joseph Antelo	ST. AUGUSTINE, FL, US	\$1,498
19	Jennifer Parrish	ALMA, AR, US	\$1,258
20	Mauui Robinson	TALLAHASSEE, FL, US	\$1,258
21	David Mzareulov	HOUSTON, TX, US	\$1,258
22	Todd Cowan	METAIRIE, LA, US	\$1,069
23	Felicia Johnico	DURANT, OK, US	\$1,069
24	Peter Sullivan	ROSCOE, IL, US	\$1,069
25	Michael Horchoff	RIVER RIDGE, LA, US	\$921
26	Mohammad Shahlaei	NEW ORLEANS, LA, US	\$921
27	John Keuster	CUMMING, GA, US	\$921

28	Donald Rousseau	Orlando, FL, US	\$804
29	Ricky Bennett	ARAGON, GA, US	\$804
30	Soojung Kim	OCEAN SPRINGS, MS, US	\$804
31	Dean Digerolamo	Baton Rouge, LA, US	\$711
32	Nicholas Elliott	Monterey Park, CA, US	\$711
33	Jay Lee	AUBURN, AL, US	\$711
34	Ryan Hill	ACWORTH, GA, US	\$636
35	David Shaw	HOUSTON, TX, US	\$636
36	Samuel Driver	GAINESVILLE, TX, US	\$636
37	Earl Merritt	PONDER, TX, US	\$576
38	Aryeh Cohen	BROOKLYN, NY, US	\$576
39	Alice Wong	ATLANTA, GA, US	\$576
40	Carl Heller	KINGWOOD, TX, US	\$576
41	Steven Weigel	WOODLAND, AL, US	\$576
42	Richard Keranen	DENHAM SPRINGS, LA, US	\$576
43	Cindy Manning	TYRONE, GA, US	\$576
44	Tyler Robinson	BOWDON, GA, US	\$576
45	Roston Stukes	MANNING, SC, US	\$576
46	Mederic Lemenager	Denham Springs, LA, US	\$528
47	Mark Marsteller	TOCCOA, GA, US	\$528
48	David Hale	ACWORTH, GA, US	\$528
49	Mark Somero	GREER, SC, US	\$528
50	Scott Standridge	FORT SMITH, AR, US	\$528
51	John Durio	Metairie, LA, US	\$528
52	Donna Murray	Gautier, MS, US	\$396
53	Dajuan Whorley	ACCOKEEK, MD, US	\$396
54	Brittain Fraley	Houston, TX, US	\$396
55	Randy Nelson	LOUISVILLE, KY, US	\$396

The WSOP Circuit Events at IP Biloxi Casino Resort and Spa continue through November 7. The Main Event will take place November 5.

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