



**CAESARS
PALACE**
LAS VEGAS



**2011/2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
Caesars Palace Las Vegas
Event #3
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$500 (+60)
Total Entries: 207
Total Prize Pool: \$100,395
January 22-23, 2012**

OFFICIAL FINAL RESULTS

1	Gregory Hartwick	BOLTON, ON, CA	\$26,106
2	Kevin Calenzo	NEW HARTFORD, NY, US	\$16,124
3	Grantland Hillman	OAKLAND, CA, US	\$11,643
4	Andrew Rudnik	Johnstown, PA, US	\$8,551
5	Jason Kinder	Carrollton, TX, US	\$6,388
6	Ricky Crandell	OVERLAND PARK, KS, US	\$4,854
7	Daniel Savas	Temecula, CA, US	\$3,750
8	Adel Parvanehgozar	Chandler, AZ, US	\$2,945
9	Stuart Pfeifer	LOS ANGELES, CA, US	\$2,349
10	Robert Bowers	Brooks, AB, CA	\$1,904
11	Lawrence Riley	LANCASTER, CA, US	\$1,904
12	Eric Baldwin	HENDERSON, NV, US	\$1,904
13	Bede Connelly	Sydney, AU	\$1,568
14	Steven Woods	Wenatchee, WA, US	\$1,568
15	Dean Schoeneck	NORMAN, OK, US	\$1,568
16	Valentin Vornicu	San Diego, CA, US	\$1,311
17	Daniel Morrell	Trophy Club, TX, US	\$1,311
18	LouAnn Merwick	LINCOLN, NE, US	\$1,311
19	Leonid Ioffe	VANCOUVER, BC, CA	\$1,112
20	Robert Massie	East Chicago, IL, US	\$1,112
21	David Singontiko	Chatsworth, CA, US	\$1,112

TOURNAMENT REPORT

Gregory Hartwick Wins First WSOP Circuit Gold Ring

Canadian Tops \$500 Buy-In NLHE Event at Caesars Palace Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV (January 23, 20112) – The World Series of Poker Circuit continued today at Caesars Palace Las Vegas.

The latest tournament champion is Gregory Hartwick, from Bolton, Ontario (Canada). He won his first gold ring, in what amounted to his first-time ever to cash on the WSOP Circuit. Hartwick collected a nice payout, totaling \$26,106 in prize money.

Hartwick's poker resume includes two previous cashes in WSOP events played in Las Vegas. He cashed in two \$1,500 buy-in events, played in 2008 and 2009. However, this was his biggest score, to date and marked his sixth major tournament cash overall. Remarkably, this was the first WSOP Circuit event Hartwick had ever played.

Hartwick is a 40-year-old customs broker. He is originally from Toronto.

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Event #3 was a two-day \$500 (+60) No-Limit Hold'em tournament, which attracted 207 entrants.

Play began on Sunday at noon and concluded in a relatively quick time, concluding during the late afternoon during Day Two on Monday.

The total prize pool came to \$100,395. The top 21 finishers were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points – used to qualify for a seat in the season-ending championship, to be played in Las Vegas.

A full list of all players who cashed in Event #3 can be seen at WSOP.COM

With his victory, Hartwick moved up alongside the two previous champions (Events #1 and #2) as the early leaders in this WSOP Circuit's "Best All-Around Player" standings. The player who accumulates the most overall points in Caesars Palace's twelve combined gold ring tournaments receives a pre-paid entry into the \$1 million 2011-2012 WSOP Circuit National Championship. At least two players from this tournament series will qualify for the WSOP Circuit National Championship, which is classified as a WSOP gold bracelet event. The other automatic qualifier will be the winner of Main Event championship (to be held Jan. 27-30).

Here are the three winners from Caesars Palace's WSOP Circuit gold ring events, completed so far:

- Event #1 – Dan Di Zenzo defeated 482 players (\$350 NLHE) and won \$30,151**
- Event #2 – Aaron Klausman defeated 887 players (\$350 NLHE) and won \$50,329**
- Event #3 – Gregory Hartiwick defeated 207 players (\$560 NLHE) and won \$26,106**

With the first three tournaments wrapped up, there are still nine more gold ring events remaining in what is being billed as a "12 rings in 12 days" poker series. The WSOP Circuit at Caesars Palace continues through January 30th. This year's schedule includes not only all the gold ring events, but multiple second-chance tournaments, single table and mega satellites, plus cash games going around the clock inside the action-packed Caesars Palace poker room

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MORE ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT AT CAESARS PALACE

This marks the seventh consecutive year that Caesars Palace Las Vegas is hosting the widely-popular World Series of Poker Circuit, which is currently in the midst of its most successful

season. Attendance is currently running about 20 percent ahead of last year (which set a record).

Caesars Palace is already home to many of the game's most popular and exciting poker events – including the Caesars Classic, NBC Heads-Up Poker Championship, and last year's inaugural WSOP Circuit National Championship. However, between the dates of January 19-30, the primary focus will be on 12 gold ring tournaments with the \$1,600 buy-in Main Event coming January 27-30.

“Caesars Palace has always carried with it a special aura -- whether we're talking about gambling, entertainment, or poker,” said Andy Rich, Director of Poker Operations for Caesars Palace. “We've always been the ‘where it's at’ in Las Vegas. Over the next 12 days, we're rolling out the red carpet for thousands of poker players who are expected enter our events and play for a gold ring. As the saying goes, ‘you can't get a hit if you don't stand up to the plate and take swing.”

This marks the first time ever that the WSOP Circuit has come to Las Vegas so early in the season. In previous years, WSOP Circuit events have taken place in April. However, with so many exciting activities happening in Las Vegas early in the year, more players than ever before will have the opportunity to participate in a WSOP Circuit event, many for the first time. To encourage more players to give the WSOP Circuit a try, Caesars Palace is offering \$70 buy-in Turbo Super Satellites, with \$50 re-buys each morning starting at 10 am. These Turbo Super Satellites will be held prior to the start of gold ring events (most of which start at noon). The dailies will guarantee at least ten seats to be given away for that day's event. In short, it's a less expensive way for many players to come in early and win a seat for a gold ring event at a fraction of the cost.

In addition, daily No-Limit Hold'em tournaments (non-gold ring events) take place most days at 9 am (\$70 entry fee, with 3,000 in starting chips), 7 pm (\$110 entry fee, with 10,000 in starting chips) and 10 pm (\$85 entry fee, with 7,500 in starting chips). The bottom line is – no poker room in Las Vegas (or anywhere for that matter) will host more tournaments over the next 12 days. Moreover, cash games will be running inside the poker room around the clock. Caesars Palace boasts one of the most luxurious poker rooms in the game. The multi-million dollar facility located adjacent to the world-famous sportsbook and Pure nightclub has a special tournament room, which is adorned with the portraits of many of poker's most legendary players.

This is the ninth WSOP Circuit stop of the season, following previous tournaments held in several other locations throughout the U.S. The 2011-2012 season includes a total of 18 WSOP Circuit stops.

All tournament players become eligible to compete in the WSOP Circuit National Championship, which takes place at season's end. The top 100 players who qualify based on a points system will compete in a nationally-televised championship, which is expected to be played in late May. Two guaranteed seats will be awarded at Caesars Palace and will go to the “Best All-Around Player” and the Main Event champion.

In previous year's, some very notable names have won gold rings at Caesars Palace and added to their legacy as the best players in the game. Previous WSOP Circuit Main Event Champions crowned at Caesars Palace include:

2006 – John Spadavecchia
2007 – Cory Carroll
2008 – Allen Cunningham
2009 – Justin Bonomo
2010 – Andrew Lichtenberger

2011 – Christopher Johnson

The complete WSOP Circuit schedule at Caesars Palace can be seen at WSOP.com. Special room rates for players are available.

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