



**2011/2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
The Bicycle Casino (Los Angeles)
Event #9
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+45)
Total Entries: 295
Total Prize Pool: \$85,845
January 9-10, 2012**

OFFICIAL RESULTS

1	Tesfaldet Tekle, a.k.a. "TT"	Tukwila, WA, US	\$21,025
2	Russell Powell	EL CAJON, CA, US	\$12,995
3	Corey Zbinden	Chicago, IL, US	\$9,390
4	Samuel Fayzakov	REGO PARK, NY, US	\$6,910
5	Andrew Barber	SACRAMENTO, CA, US	\$5,175
6	Alfonso Ayala	Pomona, CA, US	\$3,945
7	Stuart Pfeifer	LOS ANGELES, CA, US	\$3,055
8	John Yom	Walnut, CA, US	\$2,405
9	Adel Parvanehgohar	Chandler, AZ, US	\$1,925
10	Tommy Wang	DU BOIS, PA, US	\$1,560
11	Brian Joseph Gorman	Venice, CA, US	\$1,560
12	Martiros Manukyan	Los Angeles, CA, US	\$1,560
13	Melvin Gallien	Los Angeles, CA, US	\$1,290
14	Eddy Asady	SAN DIEGO, CA, US	\$1,290
15	Alex Milgrom	Paris, FR	\$1,290
16	Tigran Manukyan	Van Nuys, CA, US	\$1,080
17	Jacob Flores	Fullerton, CA, US	\$1,080
18	Nobuo Hamamoto	SUN VALLEY, CA, US	\$1,080
19	Nick Phoenix	VENICE, CA, US	\$920
20	Casey Berlin	Lynwood, CA, US	\$920
21	John Weimer	Santa Monica, CA, US	\$920
22	Garren Azama	Seattle, WA, US	\$795
23	Robert Kay	Studio City, CA, US	\$795
24	Apolinario Ortizluis	FREMONT, CA, US	\$795
25	Shahin Shojaeyan	Newark, CA, US	\$695

26	Jim Pechac	Phoenix, AZ, US	\$695
27	Niago Wilson	LOS ANGELES, CA, US	\$695

TOURNAMENT REPORT

“TT” Wins Big at The Bike

Tesfaldet Tekle Wins First WSOP Circuit Gold Ring

Los Angeles, CA (January 10, 20112) – The World Series of Poker Circuit headed into the homestretch today at The Bicycle Casino, located in the Bell Gardens section of Los Angeles. The ninth of 12 gold ring events concluded with the crowning of a new champion.

The latest tournament winner is Tesfaldet Tekle, from Seattle, WA. He is better known as “TT,” due to his unusual name. TT, now age 31, was born in Eritrea, which is located in East Africa. He immigrated to the United States at the age of two. TT owns his own business, but also plays poker in his free time. This marked his first major tournament victory. In fact, this was his first time to cash in a WSOP-related event.

TT collected \$21,025 in prize money for the win.

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Event #9 was a two-day \$300 (+45) No-Limit Hold’em tournament, which attracted 295 entrants. Play began on Monday at noon and concluded on Tuesday night. The total prize pool came to \$85,845. The top 27 finishers were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points – used to potentially 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 #9 can be seen at WSOP.COM

The first day resulted in the elimination of 282 players. There were 13 survivors who resumed action on Day Two and then played down to the final table, which commenced play on inside The Bicycle Casino’s tournament room. The finale was broadcast over the Internet via “Live at the Bike.” The nine finalists and their chips counts were as follows:

- SEAT 1: Cory “Gunz” Zbinden (Chicago, IL) – 30,000 in chips**
- SEAT 2: Clint Powell (San Diego, CA) – 309,000 in chips**
- SEAT 3: John Yom (Walnut, CA) – 242,000 in chips**
- SEAT 4: Adel Panvanehgozar (Chandler, AZ) – 250,000 in chips**
- SEAT 5: Stuart Pfeifer (Los Angeles, CA) – 424,000 in chips**
- SEAT 6: Tesfaldet Tekle, a.k.a. “TT” (Seattle, WA) – 418,000 in chips**
- SEAT 7: Alfonse Ayala (Pomona, CA) – 254,000 in chips**
- SEAT 8: Andrew “Chiseler” Barber (Sacramento, CA) – 511,000 in chips**
- SEAT 9: Samuel Fayzakov (Phoenix, AZ) – 244,000 in chips**

The final table featured no former WSOP Circuit gold ring winners, guaranteeing a first-time champion. Incredibly, six of the final table players – including the ultimate winner – were enjoying their first-ever cash in a WSOP event.

Andrew “Chiseler” Barber had extra motivation to go deep, since he came in with a shot to overtake Huy Quach in the “Best All Around Player” points race. A second-place or better showing would have given Barber the lead.

When cards flew in the air, the chip lead belonged to Barber, who was the player to beat. He enjoyed a slight lead over Tesfaldet Tekle and Stuart Pfeifer.

Final table play began at 3 pm local time. Play finished at 9:15 pm making the total duration a little more than six hours. The official order of finish was as follows:

9th Place – Adel Panvanehgohan, who is originally from Iran and now resides in Chandler, AZ was the first player to bust out from the final table. He went about 90 minutes into play. This marked his first time to cash in a WSOP-related tournament.

8th Place – John Yom, from Walnut, CA, went out about three hours into play. He began with an average-sized stack, but went card dead late and was forced to the rail. This was Yom’s fourth major tournament cash and first time in-the-money at a WSOP event.

7th Place – Stuart Pfeifer, a business reporter for the Los Angeles Times, enjoyed a nice run in this tournament. He finished in seventh place, which was his first WSOP Circuit cash. Pfeifer has previously cashed twice at the WSOP in Las Vegas. He has accumulated more than 20 overall cashes and in excess of \$50,000 in tournament winnings. This was only the second Circuit event Pfeifer has entered.

6th Place – Alfonso Ayala, from Pomona, CA finished in sixth place. He is a 22-year-old part-time poker player. This was his first time to cash in a WSOP-related tournament.

5th Place – Andrew Barber, a graduate of Cornell University and current student from Sacramento, CA finished in fifth place. This marked his second final table appearance at The Bike, and third time to cash. With this finish, Barber moved into second place on the “Best All-Around Player” rankings.

4th Place – Samuel Fayzakov, originally from Uzbekistan, came in fourth place. He now resides in Phoenix, AZ. This was his first time to cash in a WSOP-related tournament.

3rd Place – Corey “Gunz” Zbinden, from Chicago, IL ended up as the third-place finisher. This was his first time to cash in a WSOP-related tournament.

2nd Place – Russell Powell, a painting contractor from San Diego, CA finished as the runner up. He has a number of major tournament cashes, including three in-the-money finishes in WSOP Circuit events played at Caesars Palace. Powell suffered a bit of bad luck late in the tournament. Otherwise, he might have won instead of TT. He ended up with a consolation prize amounting to \$21,025.

The turning point during heads-up play came when Powell was dealt A-8. He has his opponent all-in and well-covered. Trouble was, rival TT held pocket aces. The monster hand held up,

which then put Powell at a severe disadvantage. The final hand came a few minutes later as follows, when TT won the last showdown with a pair of sevens:

TT: 7h 7s
Powell: Ad 7c
Flop: Qc 9h 6c
Turn: Th
River: 3h

1st Place – Tesfaldet Tekle (a.k.a. “TT”), from Seattle, WA, finished in first place and won his first career WSOP Circuit gold ring. He collected \$21,025 in prize money.

With his victory, TT joins the previous tournament winners on the leader board in this WSOP Circuit’s “Best All-Around Player” standings. The player who accumulates the most overall points in The Bike’s twelve combined gold ring tournaments receives a pre-paid entry into the \$1 million 2011-2012 WSOP Circuit National Championship -- to be held in Las Vegas at the end of this season. 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 The Bicycle Casino’s Main Event championship.

Here are the nine winners from The Bike’s WSOP Circuit gold ring events, so far:

- Event #1 – Huy Quach defeated 748 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$44,663**
- Event #2 – Stephen Graner defeated 191 players (\$550 NLHE) and won \$25,020**
- Event #3 – Adam Bishop defeated 313 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$20,958**
- Event #4 – Michael Rosenbach defeated 171 players (\$345 Six-NLHE) and won \$22,035**
- Event #5 – La Sengphet defeated 377 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$25,242**
- Event #6 – John Coon defeated 289 players (\$555 NLHE) and won \$34,340**
- Event #7 – Jamey Johnson defeated 164 players (\$1,000 NLHE) and won \$42,975**
- Event #8 – Gebrehiwet Goitom defeated 389 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$14,300**
- Event #9 – Tesfaldet “TT” Tekle defeated 295 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$21,025**

With nine tournaments now wrapped up, there are only three more gold ring events remaining in what is being billed as a “12 rings in 12 days” poker series. The WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino continues through December 12th. This year’s schedule includes not only a dozen gold ring events, but multiple second-chance tournaments (at 5 pm and 8 pm most days), single table and mega satellites, plus cash games going around the clock inside the massive poker room.

For further information, please visit WSOP.COM.

Note: Be sure and follow all WSOP news and updates on Twitter @wsop

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