



**2011/2012 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Caesars Atlantic City  
Event #9**

**No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$1,000 (+80)  
Total Entries: 145  
Total Prize Pool: \$140,650  
March 9-10, 2012**

**Official Final Results:**

1	Daniel Blakeman	Houston, TX, US	\$39,382
2	Josh Brikis	PITTSBURGH, PA, US	\$24,341
3	Todd Brick	SCARSDALE, NY, US	\$17,570
4	Sean Miller	Rockville, MD, US	\$12,910
5	Arkadiy Tsinis	LAS VEGAS, NV, US	\$9,651
6	Oliver Jenkins	Fort Lauderdale, FL, US	\$3,557
7	Bradley Whiteside	LITTLE ORLEANS, MD, US	\$5,672
8	Eracles Panayiotou	TOMS RIVER, NJ, US	\$4,456
9	Anthony Ibrahim	ANNANDALE, VA, US	\$3,557
10	James Henson	LAKE JACKSON, TX, US	\$2,883
11	Adam White	Tempe, AZ, US	\$2,883
12	Ronald Vidakovic	NEW MILFORD, NJ, US	\$2,883
13	Jayakrishnan Nair	Redmond, WA, US	\$2,374
14	Matt Iles	ATCO, NJ, US	\$2,374
15	Brandon Horton	ANDERSON, SC, US	\$2,374

**Tournament Report:**

**Dan Blakeman Wins Nearly 40-Grand and First Gold Ring**

**Houston Poker Pro Takes \$1,000 Buy-In No-Limit Title**

**WSOP Circuit at Caesars Atlantic City Winding Down Successful Two-Week Run**

**Atlantic City, NJ (March 10, 2012)** – Saturday was a busy day on the Jersey Shore as the latest World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event Championship began with a sizable field.

Meanwhile, on the far side of the massive tournament room at Caesars, the \$1,080 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em event wrapped up, with a thrilling finish capping off a brutally tough heads-up battle.

Dan Blakeman defeated Josh Brikis in the final showdown of the tournament, resulting in a most satisfying victory. Blakeman could take great pride just as much for how his victory took place as the treasure attached his first major tournament win.

Blakeman, a 34-year-old cash game pro from Houston who has been playing full-time for the past six years, has just started playing in live tournaments during the past year, or so. He should consider playing them more often, based on his impressive results.

By his estimate, Blakeman has only entered about a dozen major events. Yet he has final tabled three of them, and cashed in six. He now has a win, a third- and a fourth-place finish this season on the WSOP Circuit. This also marked his third time to cash in Atlantic City.

For his victory, Blakeman earned \$39,382 in prize money. He was also presented with the coveted WSOP Circuit gold ring.

His final challenger was Josh Barikis, a highly-respected 31-year-old poker pro from Pittsburgh. Brikis has more than \$1.6 million in career tournament earnings, including three straight years making a final table at the WSOP in Las Vegas. He also took 55<sup>th</sup> place in the 2010 WSOP Main Event Championship.

But the day, night, and duration of the tournament belonged to Dan Blakeman who is well on his way to continuing success as a poker pro. His next step will be the WSOP Circuit National Championship, as he's virtually guaranteed a seat based on his accumulated point total.

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This was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Caesars Atlantic City – which means the series is now two-third complete. Officially listed as Event #9 -- the \$1,000 (+80) buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 145 entries. The total prize pool came to \$140,650. The top 15 players were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points.

A full list of all players who cashed in Event #9 can be seen at [WSOP.COM](http://WSOP.COM)

The official order of finish among the top ten was as follows:

**10<sup>th</sup> Place** – James Henson, a 54-year-old orthodontist from Lake Jackson, TX was the tenth-place finisher. He won a WSOP Circuit gold ring two weeks ago at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, in Florida.

**9<sup>th</sup> Place** – Anthony Ibrahim, a 27-year-old network engineer from Annandale, VA who is originally from Beirut, Lebanon posted a ninth-place finish. He has two WSOP Circuit cashes, as well as in-the-money finishes in other major events, mostly in Atlantic City.

**8<sup>th</sup> Place** – Eracles (Eric) Panayiotou, a 56-year-old business owner from Toms River, NJ who is originally from the island of Cyprus, came in eighth place. He has many previous cashes in major tournaments. This was his third time to make the final table of a WSOP Circuit event.

**7<sup>th</sup> Place** – Bradley Whiteside, a 36-year-old correctional officer from Little Orleans, MD ended up locked down in seventh place. This marked his second time to cash in a WSOP Circuit event.

**6<sup>th</sup> Place** – Oliver Jenkins, a music producer from Ft. Lauderdale, FL finished in sixth place.

**5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Arkadiy Tsinis, a professional gambler from Las Vegas who is originally from the Ukraine, came in fifth place. Tsinis won a gold bracelet at the 2011 WSOP (\$1,500 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em). He is also an accomplished backgammon player, ranked among the top in the world. Prior to gambling and poker, Tsinis was a financial analyst.

**4<sup>th</sup> Place** – Sean Miller, a 29-year-old professor from Brooklyn, NY finished in fourth place. Remarkably, this was the first WSOP-related tournament Miller has ever played.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – Todd Brick, a 30-year-old hedge fund analyst from New York City came in third place. This marked his first time to participate in a WSOP Circuit event. Brick cashed (135<sup>th</sup> place) in the 2010 WSOP Main Event Championship.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – Josh Brikis, a highly-accomplished full-time poker pro from Pittsburgh, PA finished as the runner up. He collected \$24,341 in prize money.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Dan Blakeman, a pro poker player from Houston, became the ninth WSOP Circuit champion crowned this year at Caesars Atlantic City. He won \$39,382 for the victory. Blakeman was also rewarded with this first career gold ring.

At present, Brandon Croft retains the top spot on the leader board in this WSOP Circuit's "Best All-Around Player" standings. The player who accumulates the most overall points in Caesar's Atlantic City'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 March 10-12).

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Caesars Atlantic City, so far:

**EVENT #1: Michael McGuinness defeated 667 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$39,790**

**EVENT #2: Sarah Dygert defeated 887 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$50,333**

**EVENT #3: Brandon Croft defeated 253 players (\$555 NLHE) and won \$30,062**

**EVENT #4: Ali Navid defeated 495 players (\$345 NLHE) and won \$30,969**

**EVENT #5: Brandon Croft defeated 263 players (\$555 NLHE) and won \$31,250**

**EVENT #6: Keith Binder defeated 369 players (\$345 6-NLHE) and won \$23,623**

**EVENT #7: Abe Araya defeated 286 players (\$555 NLHE) and won \$33,290**

**EVENT #8: David Key defeated 160 players (\$345 OHL) and won \$12,571**

**EVENT #9: Dan Blakeman defeated 145 players (\$1,080 NLHE) and won \$39,382**

With the ninth tournament now wrapped up, there are just three more gold ring events remaining in what is being billed as a "12 rings in 12 days" poker series. The WSOP Circuit at Caesars Atlantic City continues through March 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 poker room

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**MORE ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT AT CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY**

The World Series of Poker Circuit is taking place at Caesars Atlantic City, one of the East Coast's premier gaming and entertainment destinations.

Indeed, this marks the seventh consecutive season that Caesars Atlantic City has hosted a WSOP Circuit stop. The luxurious casino resort has been a flagship of poker action since the first WSOP tournament took place, back in 2006.

This year's "12 Rings in 12 Days" series is taking place March 1-12. As has been the case for all previous major poker events, all action is held inside an expansive grand ballroom located on the second floor, adjacent to the main casino. In past years, the entire ballroom has been packed to capacity with players, as many of Caesars Atlantic City's events have sold out. Attendance for Atlantic City's WSOP tournaments has consistently remained high, despite the spread of poker and tournaments to other venues in nearby states and plenty of healthy competition throughout the Northeast.

This will be the 12th of 17 stops of the 2011-2012 World Series of Poker Circuit season. Just three months ago, Harrah's Atlantic City hosted the first of two New Jersey appearances by the WSOP Circuit and its players. Attendance surpassed what many observers were projecting, which leads one to believe a repeat of a successful tournament series is inevitable.

Aside from great poker tournament action and live games, there's plenty to do on the Jersey Shore during March. The casino-resort is located adjacent to the world most famous Boardwalk on the Atlantic Ocean. While the WSOP is in town, Atlantic City is hosting its famous "Restaurant Week," which is a seven-day celebration of great cuisine. Atlantic City Restaurant Week takes place March 3-10. Many restaurants within a short distance of Caesars Atlantic City are participating in the food and wine festival.

There's a lot at stake for poker players who will make their way to the Jersey Shore. Not only are a dozen gold rings up for grabs, lots of prize money will also be awarded to those who cash. All players who finish in the money will also earn ranking points, which are used to determine finalists for the season-ending WSOP Circuit National Championship.

Since the season began in September, all tournament players have been in the running for 100 guaranteed pre-paid seats in the \$1 million WSOP Circuit National Championship finale – which will be a WSOP gold bracelet event to be played in Las Vegas, around the time of the World Series of Poker.

To see the complete Caesars Atlantic City tournament schedule, please visit [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

Stay tuned to [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com) for the latest reports and updates from Caesars Atlantic City. [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com) will carry a LIVE VIDEO STREAM of every final table, starting most afternoons.

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

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, please contact:  
Nolan Dalla (WSOP Media Director) at (702) 358-4642  
e-mail: [nolandalla@aol.com](mailto:nolandalla@aol.com)  
Or visit official website: [www.wsop.com](http://www.wsop.com)