



**2011/2012 World Series of Poker Circuit
Harrah's New Orleans
Event #12
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+55)
Total Entries: 171
Total Prize Pool: \$49,761
May 21, 2012**

Official Results:

1	Joe Phelps	DIAMOND HEAD, MS, US	\$12,347
2	Dejuante Alexander	HOUSTON, TX, US	\$7,522
3	Charles Moore	LAS VEGAS, NV, US	\$5,976
4	Robert Castoire	CECELIA, KY, US	\$4,380
5	Chad Laborde	Baton Rouge, LA, US	\$3,267
6	Andrew Moon	VIDALIA, LA, US	\$2,479
7	David Nicholson	PERKINSTON, MS, US	\$1,913
8	Roger Franco	AUSTIN, TX, US	\$1,501
9	Matthew Chang	ROCKVILLE, MD, US	\$1,197
10	John Land	FRISCO, TX, US	\$1,197
11	Thomas Franklin	GULFPORT, MS, US	\$1,197
12	Michael Wolf	Staten Island, NY, US	\$969
13	Andrew Rothfolk	Dayton, TN, US	\$969
14	Beverly Cheney	GRANDBURY, TX, US	\$798
15	Daniel Bishop	Palestine, TX, US	\$798
16	Leroy Spires	LAS CRUCES, NM, US	\$667
17	Jennifer Parrish	ALMA, AR, US	\$667
18	Alfred Theriac	Shreveport, LA, US	\$667

Tournament Report:

The Closer: Joe Phelps Takes Last Gold Ring of the Season, His Second Win

Final Gold Bracelet Event of the Season Concludes

Record-Breaking 2011-2012 WSOP Circuit Season Comes to a Close

New Orleans, LA (May 20, 2012) – The latest World Series of Poker Circuit event has ended with the final gold ring winner of the season.

The latest champion is Joe Phelps, from Diamondhead, MS. He won his second WSOP Circuit gold ring, following a breakthrough win here in New Orleans back in 2009. Phelps has cashed three times at this series, and now has seven in-the-money finishes for the season.

Phelps has worked in casinos most of his life – doing jobs from dealing all the way to upper management. He left his position at the Hollywood Casino several months ago, and then suffered a health crisis when he endured a triple bypass. Phelps recovered and now is playing poker part-time.

But Phelps most inspirational moment likely took place not at a casino or a hospital, but at a Chinese restaurant. That’s right. A few days earlier, Phelps cracked open a fortune cookie that had the following message inside:

Look for the dream that keeps coming back – that is your destiny.

Phelps hung into the small slip of paper with the inspiring message, and then showed it to bystanders immediately following his gold ring victory.

Indeed, dreams *do* come true for some, and destiny is ultimately fulfilled.

Phelps’ feat was even more impressive given that he faced arguably the toughest final table lineup of the entire season. Six of the nine final table players were former WSOP Circuit gold bracelet winners – an unusually stacked finale, especially for a turbo event. In fact, this is believed to be a record for the most previous winners at any final table. They combined for ten gold rings between them – 11 counting the latest win by Phelps.

The former title winners included Charles “Woody” Moore (1 win), Joe Phelps (1 win), Robert Castoire (3 wins), David Nicholson (2 wins), John “Cowboy” Land (2 wins), and DeJuante Alexander (1 win).

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The Harrah’s New Orleans series has now been fully completed. Here are the event winners:

- Event 1 – Andy Hwang (Houston, TX) defeated 945 players in \$355 buy-in NLHE**
- Event 2 – John Fagg (Terre Haute, IN) defeated 320 players in \$565 buy-in NLHE**
- Event 3 – John Harris (Dallas, TX) defeated 167 players in \$355 buy-in PLO**
- Event 4 – Loni Harwood (Staten Island, NY) defeated 345 players in \$355 NLHE**
- Event 5 – Jonathan Tamayo (Humble, TX) defeated 440 players in \$355 NLHE**
- Event 6 – Alex Foxen (CSH, NY) defeated 335 players in \$355 buy-in Six-Handed NLHE**
- Event 7 – Jimmy Calcagno (San Antonio, TX) defeated 395 players in \$355 buy-in NLHE**
- Event 8 – Jacob Naquin (New Orleans, LA) defeated 232 players in \$1085 buy-in NLHE**
- Event 9 – Justin Truesdell (New Orleans, LA) defeated 694 players in \$1600 buy-in Main Event NLHE**
- Event 10 – Michael Schneider (Covington, SC) defeated 337 players in \$355 buy-in NLHE**
- Event 11 – Justin Gardenshire (Ponca City, OK) defeated 246 players in \$355 buy-in NLHE**
- Event 12 – Joe Phelps (Diamondhead, MS) defeated 171 players in \$355 buy-in TURBO NLHE**

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MORE ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT AT HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS AND THE WSOP CIRCUIT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 17th and final World Series of Poker Circuit stop of the 2011-2012 season is taking place at Harrah's New Orleans, conveniently located right next to the famous French Quarter. This year's tournament series runs May 10-21.

New Orleans has become a favorite destination for poker players and regulars on the WSOP Circuit. For each of the past eight seasons, Harrah's New Orleans has been the last waltz of a long poker symphony. This year, New Orleans wraps up seventeen WSOP Circuit event stops, which have attracted tens of thousands of poker players from all over the United States, and beyond.

The current season began last September at Horseshoe Bossier City (Shreveport), and now comes full circle back to the state of Louisiana for what promises to be a thrilling conclusion to what has been a record-breaking poker tour.

There's a lot at stake for poker players who will make their way to the Crescent City over the next two weeks. Not only are nearly a dozen gold rings up for grabs, as well as lots of prize money. What seems to be driving attendance is the wildly-popular WSOP Circuit National Championship rankings. New Orleans is the last chance players will have to earn points to qualify for this year's National Championship.

Since the season began, all tournament players have been in the running for 100 guaranteed pre-paid seats in the \$1 million WSOP Circuit National Championship finale. In a sense, every National Championship seat is valued at \$10,000 -- since that's the proportion of the million dollar-plus prize pool each player represents. Another 100 players are eligible to buy into the tournament (top ranked players from each of the past two WSOPs in Las Vegas), which means the event will cap out with well over a million dollars at stake.

This marks the second straight season that the WSOP Circuit has utilized a national ranking system based on accumulated points. All players earned their points by finishing in-the-money in one or more of the 204 total gold ring tournaments which are being offered this season.

What awaits the fortunate 100 players who will advance to the National Championship? First, there is the chance to win a lot of money. Second, is the opportunity to appear on national television, since the tournament held at the Rio Las Vegas will be broadcast nationally on ESPN -- one of only three events this year to be covered in full by the network. Third, all players will be competing for the most coveted prize in the game of poker -- the WSOP gold bracelet. This is the second time that a gold bracelet has been tied to the WSOP Circuit. Last year, Sam Barnhart, from Little Rock, AR won the inaugural WSOP National Championship title.

So, the final opportunity for most players to be crowned the 2012 "WSOP Circuit National Champion" will take place at Harrah's New Orleans. Over 12 consecutive days -- through May 21st -- tournament players will be jockeying for position in what will be the final chance to earn ranking points.

At the conclusion of the Harrah's New Orleans tour stop -- on May 21st -- the final official list of 100 players who qualify will be announced.

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:
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Director of Table Games – Patrick Chan
Poker Room Manager – Darin Thigpen
Internal WSOPC Tournament Director – Larry Barrett

About Harrah’s New Orleans:

Harrah’s New Orleans is operated by a subsidiary of Caesars Entertainment, Inc., the world's largest provider of branded casino entertainment. Since its beginning in Reno, Nevada nearly 70 years ago, Caesars (formally Harrah's) has grown through development of new properties, expansions and acquisitions. Caesars Entertainment is focused on building loyalty and value with its customers through a unique combination of great service, excellent products, unsurpassed distribution, operational excellence and technology leadership. For more information, visit www.harrahsneworleans.com.