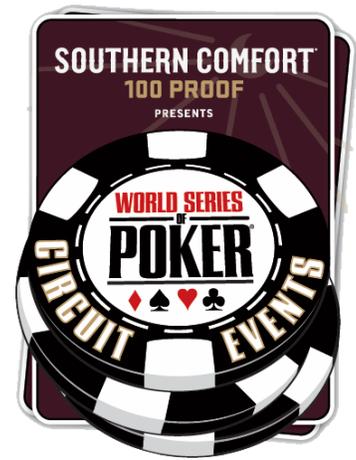


**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
Choctaw Casino Resort  
Durant, OK  
Event #2  
No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry  
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)  
Total Entries: 2,209  
Prize Pool: \$1,104,500  
January 11-14, 2013**



## **Ross Bybee Wins Fourth Largest Tournament in WSOP Circuit History**

**Poker professional outlasts 2,209 at Choctaw Resort to pocket \$168,433.**

**Durant, Okla. (January 15, 2013)** — It took four starting flights, the addition of an extra day and 30 some odd hours of poker, but Ross Bybee did it.

The 37-year-old poker professional from McKinney, Tex. etched his name in the history books by besting 2,209 entrants in Event 2, a \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry tournament, at Choctaw Resort Monday night. Bybee pocketed \$168,433 and took home the ultimate token of achievement on the WSOP Circuit – a gold ring.

“[It feels] amazing; spectacular; wonderful. Everything you can think of and then some,” Bybee said. “I have no trophies. I’ve won a lot of events and I’ve gotten little tokens, but this is my first real trophy. For it to be a ring means a lot.”

The 2,209-player field marks the fourth largest turnout in WSOP Circuit history behind only two events at Horseshoe Hammond and last year’s \$1 million guarantee at Palm Beach Kennel Club.

Turnout was so tremendous, in fact, the event required the addition of an extra day to play out in its entirety. Bybee wasn’t one to complain. He bagged Day 2 as the chip leader and rode his pace-setting stack all the way to the winner’s circle.

Event 2 began Friday with the first of four starting flights, 1A. The opening flight drew an impressive 576 entrants and from then on it was anybody’s guess as to just how big it would get. Flight 1B began at 5 p.m. the same day and drew 354, bringing the day’s total to 930 entrants with two more starting flights and the day tournament staff anticipated to draw the largest turnout – Saturday – still to go.

Saturday lived up to the hype.

Flight 1C began at 12 p.m. and a staggering 745 players registered for the event. Pair that number with flight 1D’s turnout, 534, and you have a 1,279-person day and a tournament with 2,209 total entrants.

The prize pool smashed the original \$500,000 guarantee, topping out at \$1,104,500 and paying the top 225 finishers. The first prize of \$168,433 was almost 300 times Bybee's original buy in.

"Poker is what I've wanted to do for a long time and anything to get my name out there makes it all the better," Bybee said of going down in the record books.

Rest assured, Bybee. You've made it and the poker world will remember your name for a long, long time.

Event 2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Resort. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry tournament attracted 2,209 entries. The total prize pool came to \$1,104,500 and the top 225 players were paid.

Days 1A and 1B began Friday at 12 and 5 p.m. and lasted 15 levels. Days 1C and 1D began Saturday at 12 and 5 p.m. and also last 15 levels. Day 2 began Sunday at 12 p.m. with 405 players remaining. Due to the tremendous turnout, an extra day of play was added.

Cards were in the air Monday at 2 p.m. with 17 players remaining.

The nine-handed final table began at 4:15 p.m. Play finished at about 10:15 p.m. making the total duration of the final table six hours including a one-hour dinner break.

### **Notes on the Event**

- Event 2 was the fourth largest tournament in WSOP Circuit history, and the largest ever held at Choctaw Resort.
- Doug "Rico" Carli (161st) recorded his 69th career WSOP Circuit cash extending his lead over Mark "Pegasus" Smith (32).
- Elior Cohen (155th), Nick Jivkov (88th) and Nicolas Vaca-Rondon (sixth) were the only three players to finish in the money not from the U.S.
- Jonathan Hilton (fifth) finished second in Event 59, a \$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em tournament at the WSOP this summer, for \$405,156.
- The final table contained no WSOP Circuit champions.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Choctaw Resort's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Champion's race and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Choctaw Resort:

EVENT #1: James Henson defeated 481 players (\$365 NLH) for \$31,021

EVENT #2: Ross Bybee defeated 2,209 players (\$580 NLH Re-Entry for \$168,433

With the second tournament wrapped, 10 more ring events remain at Choctaw Casino.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com. For additional information please contact:

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