



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Bicycle Casino
Bell Gardens, CA
Event #6
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 193
Prize Pool: \$57,900
January 9-10, 2013**

Here's to “Life”

Michael “Life” Taylor Wins First Gold Ring

Music Industry Executive Perfectly in Tune in Latest Victory at the Bike

Bell Gardens, CA (January 10, 2013) – Of all this season's gold ring champions, Michael “Life” Taylor is certainly one of the most interesting.

He's produced records. He's owned a song publishing company. He's dealt at the World Series of Poker. And now, he's played poker semi-professionally for the last few years. No doubt, Taylor is a man with many interests and talents.

Taylor won the most recent WSOP Circuit event held at The Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles. He topped a field of 193 entrants in the two-day \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament. Taylor collected \$15,050 for the victory. He was also awarded his first gold ring.

It was a nice change of scenery for the man who now calls Phoenix, AZ his home. In years past, Taylor was used to pitching the cards rather than playing them. Indeed, Taylor has dealt to many of the best players in the world, including critical moments when gold bracelets were at stake. In fact, he dealt to Phil Ivey when he won his seventh gold bracelet.

Taylor told an interesting story about a personal experience that reveals a lot about the man. Three years ago, the final table rotation was missing a dealer due to sickness. It was late at night and the usual group of dealers who worked the higher-profile events was not available. Taylor was asked if he wanted to deal at a final table which included Phil Ivey, Carlos Mortensen, and some other big names. He seized the opportunity and jumped right in.

“Those are the kinds of things I thrive on,” Taylor said. “I couldn't wait to get in the box and prove I could do it. A lot of people are intimidated by that, but I like the pressure.”

Taylor added there was one additional fringe benefit to dealing poker.

“I wanted to deal to the best, and I did that,” Taylor said. “I watched the best at their game, and if you really study, you pick up on things. I think that education really helped me become better as a player and made me want to play in more tournaments.”

That attitude was never more on display than tonight at a final table that seemed to belong to Taylor from the start. He arrived with a slightly above average stack and proceeded to outlast everyone in a final session that went nine hours. For Taylor, it seemed more like nine minutes.

“It was an easy final table,” Taylor said afterward. “No disrespect, but you saw it. Everything went my way.”

Taylor's work in the music business also set the stage for this victory. No doubt, if poker is a tough way to make an easy living, the music business may be doubly so, given all its dangers and pitfalls. But Taylor has not only survived, he has thrived as a producer and songwriting publisher.

At present, Taylor is working with EMPIRE FOREVER Entertainment and in songwriting. Two artists currently in his circle include Pokefase and Hannibal Leq. He's also working with celebrated two-time Grammy winner Lifted (who produced Kanye West's mega-hit “Mercy.”).

Taylor noted that he earned his unusual nickname “Life” from spending time in the music business, mostly with the hip-hop crowd. He said several musicians liked his style and thought he had such a positive outlook on life and living, that they began calling him “Life.”

So, here's to Life – winner of the WSOP Circuit gold ring!

Special Note: Life wishes to dedicate this gold ring and the victory to his fiancée Cassie, who is also a poker player. She lives in Phoenix and is hopes to play with him at an upcoming WSOP Circuit stop.

The final tables finishers were as follows:

- 1st: Michael Taylor --\$15,050 (Chandler,AZ)
- 2nd: Stephen Rivera --\$9,300 (Northridge, CA)
- 3rd: David Pecaski --\$6,715 (Vancouver,BC --Canada)
- 4th: Michael Quick --\$4,930 (Torrance,CA)
- 5th: Daniel Illingworth --\$3,685 (Carlsbad,CA)
- 6th: Jose Marcal --\$2,800 (Thousand Oaks,CA)
- 7th: Shaun Abkarian --\$2,165 (La Verne,CA)
- 8th: Alan J. He – \$1,700 (Vancouver,BC --Canada)
- 9th: Daniel Gilmer --\$1,355 (Ashland,OH)

Tournament Notes

- This was the sixth event of this year's WSOP Circuit being held at The Bicycle Casino.
- Day One began with 193 starters for the noon start. By the end of 14 hours of play at 2am, only ten remained. The survivors returned for Day Two and played another half-hour before the final table session began.

- The runner up was Stephen Rivera, who made his second final table appearance at this year's Bike series.
- The final table included one previous gold ring winner – Daniel Gilmer (two rings, both won this season).
- The final table included two players born in Canada.
- WSOP gold bracelet winner Ylon Schwartz cashed for the second time in two days at The Bike, coming in 15th place.
- The final table went about nine hours.

The sixth gold ring winner, Michael Taylor is now in contention for the Casino Champion race for The Bicycle Casino series. He has accumulated 50 points so far at The Bike.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in The Bike's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and shall receive automatic entry into the \$1 Million 2012-13 WSOP National Championship Presented by Southern Comfort 100 Proof. The qualifier will join the winner of the \$1,675 buy-in Main Event (January 12-14), who also wins an automatic seat.

All players who cash in gold ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Championship race (good for The Bike events only) and the season-long race to claim one of the 60 at-large National Championship bids to be awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

The 2012-13 WSOP Circuit at The Bicycle Casino runs through January 14th, 2013.

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