



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season Nine  
Caesars Atlantic City  
Atlantic City, NJ  
Event #6  
Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In \$300 (+65)  
Total Entries: 292  
Prize Pool: \$87,600  
March 6-7, 2013**

### **A Leong Night of Celebration**

### **Christopher Leong Wins Second Gold Ring This Week at Caesars Atlantic City**

### **Gold Ring Winners Finish 1-2-3**

### **Latest Winner Takes Casino Champion Point Lead**

**Atlantic City, NJ (March 7, 2013)** – It's said that cream rises to the top. That certainly happened in the most recent WSOP Circuit event, which concluded early this morning at Caesars Atlantic City.

The top three finishers were all previous gold ring winners. Christopher Leong finished first., Robert Panitch finished second, and Cory Waaland took third.

Indeed, the player at the top of this golden pyramid was also the champion of Event 2 – which drew the monster-sized 809-player field last weekend. Any player that could conquer something of that size would certainly be a force in this tournament as well.

Yet Leong's biggest challenges here in Atlantic City this past week weren't so much his opponents, but himself.

“I had a really terrible year, in 2012,” Leong said after his latest victory. “I had a losing year, so it was very tough.”

Two things are remarkable about that statement. First, Leong's honesty is refreshing. Second, he had enough faith in himself to stick it out and expect a turnaround.

“I really did not change the way I played. I didn't alter my game,” said Leong. “I knew it would turn around and I had this feeling it would happen (here at Caesars Atlantic City). Now, my goal is to try and win a third. That would be a record, right?”

Yes indeed – a third victory by Leong within the next six events (two have already started) would put him in exalted territory. He'd likely reach an unbreakable plateau under the current format of “12 gold ring in 12 days.” Winning two gold rings in the same series is a phenomenal feat that

has only happened a handful of times in nine Circuit seasons, but winning a third victory at a single series would be unprecedented.

Leong is a 24-year-old poker pro from New York City. He graduated from Prestigious Baruch College a few years ago. He says he'd like to go into business for himself at some point, but given his results and the way he's now playing, perhaps those plans will be postponed a bit longer.

Leong collected \$22,776 plus his second gold ring. He's also now the leader in the Casino Champion race with a tough to beat 100 points.

The heads-up match between the two finalists ran an astounding five hours before Panitch took second place.

Also worthy of mention was Cory Waaland's third-place finish. With his current point total, another deep run in one of the final events could catapult him into the leader in the Casino Champion race.

NYC-based writer Rachel Krantz took fifth place.

The Six-Handed No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted a nice-sized field totaling 292 players and was played over a two-day period. The top 30 finishers collected prize money. The final table finishers were as follows:

1st	Christopher Leong	NEW YORK, NY, US	\$22,776
2nd	Robert Panitch	NORTHBROOK, IL, US	\$14,074
3rd	Cory Waaland	GREENVILLE, NC, US	\$9,771
4th	Justin Liberto	FALLSTON, MD, US	\$6,856
5th	Rachel Kranz	NEW YORK, NY, US	\$4,862
6th	Edward Steitz	SEA GIRT, NJ, US	\$3,485

### **Tournament Notes**

- This was the sixth gold ring event of this year's WSOP Circuit being played at Caesars Atlantic City.
- The two-day tournament began with 292 players. After 14 hours of play on Day One, only 15 survivors remained.
- There were 15 players that started Day Two. It took about two hours to play down to the final table.
- The final table included three gold ring winners – Chris Leong, Cory Waaland, and Bob Panitch.
- The final table went about nine hours.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Caesars Atlantic City'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 (March 9-11), 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 Caesars Atlantic City 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 Caesars Atlantic City runs through March 1, 2013.

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