

**2012-2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
The Lodge Casino
Black Hawk, CO
Event #2
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 272
Prize Pool: \$81,600
March 15-16, 2013**



Jonathan Alfonso Scores First Ring in Event 2

Newly-turned professional cashes in on \$19,586 at The Lodge Casino.

The second of 12 gold ring tournaments concludes at the WSOP's first-ever Colorado event.

Black Hawk, Colo. (March 17, 2013) — Jonathan Alfonso bested Anthony Karahalios heads-up in Event 2 Saturday night at The Lodge Casino in Black Hawk, Colo. The victory awarded Alfonso \$19,586, his first WSOP Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

The win was well-deserved for the young pro who began the heads-up battle at a significant chip disadvantage. Fortunately, he struck first, holding K-Q on a K-Q-9-10-Q board against Karahalios' J-9. Alfonso's full house bested his competitor's straight and he got paid off on the river, snagging control of the heads up match only to have it snatched from him a few hands later.

Karahalios got his last chips in holding [8h][7c] against Alfonso's [Ad][Js]. The flop of [As][Kh][5h] gave Alfonso a strangle hold on the pot, leaving Karahalios needing runner-runner two pair, flush or straight cards.

Well... You guessed it.

The turn and river came [9s][6s] giving Karahalios the straight cards he needed to win the pot and double up. In disgust, Alfonso immediately took out his cell phone to take a photo of the carnage. We checked Twitter, but to no avail and can only assume the photo ended up in a lockbox never to be seen again.

Fortunately for Alfonso, he went home with a more meaningful photo; one that shines a better a light on the tournament for the 25-year-old professional poker player from Austin, Tex. -- a winner's photo.

Eventually, Alfonso's A-8 held against Karahalios' K-9 all-in pre-flop and Karahalios was eliminated in second place for \$12,103.

“I felt like if I stuck with it and chilled out a bit, I could beat him,” Alfonso said of the seesaw heads-up battle. “Even when I was down in chips, I felt like I could come back from even less than I had.”

Alfonso just recently padded his bankroll following victories in back-to-back preliminary events at the WSOP Circuit at Choctaw Resort earlier this year. The \$19,586 score in Event 2 marks his largest to date, but the victory is bigger than any dollar amount.

“This is my top score just because of the ring. It’s all about the ring; my first ring. I’m happy about it,” Alfonso said.

Event 2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at The Lodge Casino. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em tournament attracted 272 entries. The total prize pool came to \$81,600 and the top 30 players were paid.

Day 1 began Friday at 11 a.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Saturday at 3 p.m. with 15 players remaining. The nine-handed final table began at 4:30. Play finished at about 10 p.m. making the total duration of the final table five and a half hours.

Notes on the Event

- This was the second of 12 gold rings tournaments scheduled to take place during Colorado’s first-ever WSOP event.
- The final table included one WSOP Circuit champion, Krzysztof Stybaniewicz (fifth).
- Jacob Battenberg (seventh) placed 189th in the 2004 WSOP Main Event. His resume now includes two WSOP cashes.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during The Lodge Casino’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 The Lodge Casino:

EVENT #1: Bryan Campanello defeated 301 players (\$365 NLH) for \$21,223

EVENT #2: Jonathan Alfonso defeated 272 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,586

With the second tournament wrapped, 10 more ring events remain at The Lodge 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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