



**2012/2013 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season Nine
Harrah's New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana
Event #5
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In \$300 (+65)
Total Entries: 276
Prize Pool: \$82,800
May 11-12, 2013**

Nancy Birnbaum Wins Third Gold Ring

Second WSOP Circuit victory this season for tournament grinder

Las Vegas poker pro ties La Sengphet for most WSOP Circuit wins by female

New Orleans, LA (May 12, 2013) – Nancy Birnbaum made history tonight at Harrah's New Orleans. She's the latest winner of a gold ring as part of the WSOP Circuit.

Birnbaum won Event 5, a \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tourney which took two long 14-hour days to complete. First place paid \$19,875. The Las Vegas resident and tournament grinder was presented with her third gold ring. Before playing poker full time, Birnbaum lived in Atlanta where she worked in sales for BMW.

The win rocketed Birnbaum into a tie for most WSOP Circuit wins ever by a female -- with three. Until tonight, the title had been exclusively held by La Sengphet, from Dallas.

Most impressive was the manner of Birnbaum's victory, which included a remarkable comeback from the dead. With five players remaining, she had barely enough chips for a few rounds of blinds. Then, the cards turned and Birnbaum's patience and experience paid off.

This was Birnbaum's second time to win a gold ring here in New Orleans. Her first victory took place here in 2009. Last December, she won her second gold ring at Harrah's Rincon. She's also finished second twice in gold ring events. With all due respect to Sengphet and others, Birnbaum now stands as the top female player of the 2012-2013 season, an honor that's well deserved based on her commitment to the game.

"I'm thrilled to win this," Birnbaum said. "I really dedicated myself to playing well. I was so low on chips at one point that I didn't think it would happen. But this shows you what's possible if you stay focused and never give up."

The runner up was Kevin Choe, a 25-year-old financier from Burke, VA.

The fifth of 12 gold ring events attracted 296 players. The two-day \$365 buy-in No-Limit Hold'em tournament went longer than expected due to some stellar play at the late stages by the top finishers.

There were other notable developments from this tournament, as well. Loni Harwood, a two-time winner from Staten Island, NY finished in the money. She was also seeking her third gold ring. Indeed, this turned out to be “ladies night” at Harrah's New Orleans.

The tournament generated a prize pool totaling \$82,800. The top 18 finishers collected prize money. The final table finishers were as follows:

1	Nancy Birnbaum	ATLANTA, GA, US	\$19,875
2	Kevin Choe	BURKE, VA, US	\$12,281
3	Drennon Rackley	DALTON, GA, US	\$8,911
4	Shawn Trahan	YOUNGSVILLE, LA, US	\$6,574
5	Wade Woelfel	MANKATO, MN, US	\$4,931
6	Oran Haynes	GRAMBLING, LA, US	\$3,757
7	Brennan Benglis	LAKE CHARLES, LA, US	\$2,908
8	Mihail Karasoulis	METAIRIE, LA, US	\$2,285
9	Derrick Evangelista	STAFFORD, TX, US	\$1,823

Tournament Notes

- This was the fifth gold ring event of 12 to be held at Harrah's New Orleans.
- This is the final WSOP Circuit stop of the 2013-2014 season.
- Harrah's New Orleans has hosted all nine season-ending series stops since the WSOP Circuit began.
- The two-day tournament began with 276 players. After 14 hours of play on Day One, only 24 survivors remained.
- There were 24 players that started Day Two. It took about three hours to play down to the final table of nine.
- The final table included only one gold ring winner – Nancy Birnbaum, who ended up winning his second gold ring.
- The final table lasted about eight hours hours and ended at 4 am.

Nancy Birnbaum picked up 50 player points for his victory and is now tied for first place in the Casino Champion race. The top 30 finishers all received points. However, she is certain to qualify by virtue of her high overall season point total.

The player who accumulates the most overall points in Harrah's New Orleans 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 (May 17-20), 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 Harrah's New Orleans gold ring 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 Harrah's New Orleans runs through May, 20 2013. This is to be followed by the third annual WSOP National Championship, also to be played here in New Orleans.

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