

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Horseshoe Bossier City
Event #10
Main Event Championship
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$1,500 (+175)
Total Entries: 438
Total Prize Pool: \$657,000
November 15-18, 2013**

TOURNAMENT REPORT

Hometown Hero Thom Creel Wins Bossier City Main Event

Local players outlasts a strong final table to win his first Circuit ring.

Bossier City, LA (November 19, 2013) – For a local cash game player, it could be intimidating to go up against the line-up in the Horseshoe Bossier City Main Event today. It was a final table that featured two ring winners, a player with a WSOP final table to his credit, and, if that weren't enough, it even had a WSOP Main Event final tablist, 2012's eighth place finisher, Rob Salaburu.

To watch Thom Creel at today's final table though, no one would describe his demeanor as intimidated. This recreational player from Monroe, Louisiana not only held his own against a table stacked with pros, he outlasted all of them to claim the Bossier City Main Event title, the Circuit ring, the National Championship, and a tidy payday of \$144,537.

Creel balked at the suggestion he had any sort of homefield advantage playing in Bossier City. When asked if he felt like it helped his chances, he didn't think it did.

"Not really. I didn't really know anybody I was playing with," Creel said with a laugh.

The retail grocery manager came into the final table as the chip leader, but his big stack was overshadowed by the big names like Salaburu and five-time Circuit Main Event final tablist Daniel Lowery. During the early goings of play, Creel sat back, letting the big names do the heavy lifting. Ring winner Cord Garcia dispatched with Salaburu in eighth place early in final table action. As the field started getting down to short-handed play though, Creel put his foot on the gas and started gathering more chips.

The exit of the experienced Lowery in sixth place opened up more opportunities for Creel to get involved at the final table. The pivotal moment for Creel came during four-handed play, when Creel busted James Phelps in fourth place when Phelps shoved all-in with pocket sixes only to run into Creel's pocket queens. The ladies held to give Creel the massive pot, plus around half the chips in play with three players remaining.

Garcia put up a fight three-handed, despite Creel and Sean Small, coincidentally also Garcia's good friend, had the vast majority of the chips. Garcia hung in there a while, but ended up exiting in third place, setting up what would end up being a pretty epic heads-up battle.

Creel and Small battled for over three hours. Twice, it appeared as though the hometown hero was going to finish off Small, but twice Small rallied, not only doubling up, but also fighting back to bring things back to even.

"Sean was a great player," Creel said. "He's a good guy, and you can tell he is a skilled player, but I play a lot of poker too," he added with a smile.

In the end though, Creel finished the Bossier City series much the way local pro Keith Lehr started it--with a win for the home team. The third all-in proved to be the charm for Creel, who picked up pocket tens to Small's pocket deuces to end the match and the tournament.

This is far and away Creel's biggest tournament score to date. He previously had only \$36,000 in career tournament earnings. As he tells it, he only plays at the casino a few times a month, alternating between poker and cash games. He might want to put in a little more time at the Bossier City tables the next few months though, as he has a trip to Atlantic City for the National Championship to prepare for in May.

This year's Main Event generated 438 entries and a prize pool of \$657,000. The top 45 finishers in the tournament made the money. Several notables collected paydays in Louisiana, including bracelet Jordan Smith (39th), last year's Horseshoe Bossier City Main Event winner Jeff Gibraltet (35th), ring winner Abraham Araya (31st), three-time ring winner Jessie Bryant (16th), and three-time ring winner La Sengphet (11th).

The Main Event (officially listed as Event #10) was a three-day \$1,500 (+175) No-Limit Hold 'em tournament, which attracted 438 entrants. This was the fifth-largest Main Event of the WSOP Circuit season so far.

Play began on Friday at noon and concluded on Monday night. The total prize pool came to \$657,000. The top 45 finishers were paid. All players who cashed received WSOP Circuit National Championship ranking points – used to potentially qualify for a seat in the season-ending championship, to be played in Atlantic City.

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The first two flights resulted in the elimination of more than three quarters of the field. There were 81 survivors who resumed action on Day Two. After the end of Day Two, the field was trimmed event further, down to nine players who returned for Day Three. The nine finalists

and their chips counts were as follows:

Seat 1: Thomas Creel - 1,792,000
Seat 2: Cord Garcia - 450,000
Seat 3: Jeff Niedelman - 1,035,000
Seat 4: Susan Kattamuri - 514,000
Seat 5: Jason Lang - 276,000
Seat 6: James Phelps - 1,410,000
Seat 7: Rob Salaburu - 718,000
Seat 8: Sean Small - 1,423,000
Seat 9: Daniel Lowery - 1,144,000

The final table featured a WSOP Main Event November Niner (Rob Salaburu). The finale also featured two WSOP Circuit gold ring winners (Cord Garcia and Dan Lowery). The final session began at noon local time. Play finished at 11 pm making the total duration about 11 hours.

About the Final Table:

1st: Thom Creel- \$144,537
Hometown: Monroe, LA
Age: N/A
Occupation: Retail Grocery Manager
Circuit Earnings: \$145,394

2nd: Sean Small - \$89,319
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Age: N/A
Occupation: Poker pro
Circuit Earnings: \$218,904

3rd: Cord Garcia - \$65,266
Hometown: Houston, TX
Age: 23
Occupation: Poker pro
Circuit Earnings: \$134,509

4th: James Phelps - \$48,460
Hometown: Austin, TX
Age: 57
Occupation: N/A
Circuit Earnings: \$48,460

5th: James Lang - \$36,542
Hometown: Houston, TX
Age: 34
Occupation: Tow Truck Owner

Circuit Earnings: \$40,269

6th: Dan Lowery - \$27,968

Hometown: Peter Pender, AR

Age: 39

Occupation: Sawmill Owner/Operator

Circuit Earnings: \$425,397

7th: Jeff Niedelman - \$21,270

Hometown: Houston, TX

Age: 52

Occupation: N/A

Circuit Earnings: \$27,538

8th: Rob Salaburu - \$17,108

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Age: 28

Occupation: Poker Pro

Circuit Earnings: \$25,450

9th: Susan Kattamuri - \$13,666

Hometown: Irving, TX

Age: 30

Occupation: Self-Employed

Circuit Earnings: \$13,666

Additional Notes on the Final Table:

-There were no gold bracelet winners at this final table, but Rob Salaburu finished 8th in the 2012 WSOP Main Event for \$971,360.

-The final table also featured two Circuit ring winners in Cord Garcia and Dan Lowery.

-Both James Phelps and Susan Kattamuri were posting their first-ever WSOP Circuit cashes.

-Both James Lang and Jason Niedelman, along with Phelps and Kattamuri, had no WSOP Circuit cashes prior to the Horseshoe Bossier City Circuit series.

-This is the fifth Circuit Main Event final table for Daniel Lowery. His best finish is second place.

-Cord Garcia, Sean Small, and Daniel Lowery have all final tabled Circuit Main Events previously. In fact, Small and Garcia both squared off at the Council Bluffs Main Event final table last season.

-Susan Kattamuri is the second woman to final table a Circuit Main Event this season, joining Horseshoe Hammond third place finisher Diane Dines.

-The women of the Circuit performed remarkably well in this event. Five of the 45 players who cashed were women, meaning 11% of the in-the-money finishers were female despite the fact that women comprised substantially less than 11% of the field.

Here's the final list of champions from all the Horseshoe Bossier City gold ring events played at this WSOP Circuit stop:

- EVENT #1: Keith Lehr defeated 231 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$17,236
- EVENT #2: Jorge Melendez defeated 248 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$18,229
- EVENT #3: Chase Hernandez defeated 561 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$35,357
- EVENT #4: Sandeep Vasudevan defeated 203 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$15,835.
- EVENT #5: Andy Robinson defeated 196 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$15,289.
- EVENT #6: Wes Monico defeated 183 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$14,275.
- EVENT #7: Miguel Hernandez defeated 212 players (\$365 NLHE Six-Handed) for \$17,176.
- EVENT #8: Dale Roesel defeated 197 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$25,610.
- EVENT #9: Bryan Campanello defeated 104 players (\$365 PLO) for \$9,360.
- EVENT #10 (MAIN EVENT): Thomas Creel defeated 438 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$144,537.
- EVENT #11: Johnny Donnelly defeated 145 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$12,181.
- EVENT #12: Al Theriac defeated 96 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$8,638.

Coming next, the WSOP Circuit is off to Harrah's Resort Atlantic City – which runs its tournament series from November 29-December 9, 2013. After that, the Circuit heads to Harrah's Rincon in San Diego from December 5-16, 2013. For more information, please visit WSOP.com/circuit/2013