

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Casino du Lac-Leamy

Gatineau, QC, CA

Event #2

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 167

Prize Pool: \$83,500

November 14-15, 2013



Andrej Markovinovic Earns Gold in Quebec

Former Casino Lac-Leamy employee breaks through on his home turf, pockets \$22,546.

Gatineau, QC (November 15, 2013) — Andrej Markovinovic steamrolled the field in Casino Lac-Leamy's \$580 No-Limit Hold'em event Friday night earning \$22,546 and a gold ring. Up until three days ago, the 27-year-old Gatineau, QC resident was an employee of the property. He left his job to pursue poker full time and used the Lac-Leamy series as a maiden voyage for what he hopes is a long journey.

"I worked at this casino for the past eight years," an emotional Markovinovic said. "[The ring] is huge, especially winning it here in front of all my friends and ex-colleagues. It's a big prestige for me."

Markovinovic proved himself against a tough field that saw Canadian professional Mike Leah maneuver his way to a final table berth. Leah, who is now a 37-time WSOP-related casher with more than \$430,000 in earnings, came to the finale as one of the short stacks and couldn't get anything going. He exited ninth, earning \$2,009.

His deep run comes just one day after gold bracelet winner Erik Cajelais made the Event 1 final table, busting fourth. With tomorrow's \$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em tournament kicking off at 12 p.m., hopes are high for even more of Canada's top professionals to take to the Lac-Leamy felt.

One player not intimidated by the accolades of his adversaries is Markovinovic. Despite only declaring his professional status three days ago, Markovinovic lays claim to something Cajelais, Leah and many other pros do not – a gold ring.

"I feel I had perfect control of the final table the whole way," a confident but humble Markovinovic said after his win. "There's not much else to say. It's pretty easy when you play well and you run well."

Markovinovic was born in Bosnia and spent much of his childhood in the war-stricken country. When the civil war subsided late in 1995 the area was devastated and, in Markovinovic's own words, there was nothing left to the country. His parents gathered him along with his twin brother and sister and moved to Gatineau in 1996 in search of a better life.

Markovinovic made the most of the relocation to Canada. He went to college and earned an accounting degree. Eventually he got a job at Casino Lac-Leamy and held steady work there for eight years.

His gold ring victory is just the most recent in a string of successes and his parents can hold their heads high knowing their boy is making the most of the opportunity they gave him.

Event 2 was the second of 10 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Casino Lac-Leamy. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 167 players generating an \$83,500 prize pool. The top 18 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 12 p.m. and reached the 10-handed final table partway through Level 19. The finale began Friday at 1 p.m. and concluded at about 6 p.m.

Two additional gold ring events are set to take place December 7 and 8 on EspaceJeux.com in partnership with the Lac-Leamy series, bringing the total rings awarded to 12.

Notes on the Event

- For the second straight tournament, all in-the-money finishers were Canadian.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Casino Lac-Leamy's twelve combined gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place at Caesars Atlantic City this spring.

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 50 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 Casino Lac-Leamy:

EVENT #1: Aila Elouta defeated 282 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$20,303

EVENT #2: Andrej Markovinovic defeated 167 players (\$580 NLH) for \$22,546

With the second tournament wrapped, eight more ring events remain at Casino Lac-Leamy.

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