

## **2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 10**

**Casino du Lac-Leamy**

**Gatineau, QC, CA**

**Event #4**

**No-Limit Hold'em**

**Buy-In: \$1,000 (+\$125)**

**Total Entries: 165**

**Prize Pool: \$165,000**

**November 16-17, 2013**



## **Andre Smith Wins Lac-Leamy \$1K**

**Triathlete outlasts decorated field to earn \$44,547.**

**Adam Podstawka takes Casino Championship lead with third-place finish.**

**Gatineau, QC (November 17, 2013)** — It takes a lot to compete in a triathlon, but it takes even more to succeed in them at the national level. That’s exactly what Andre Smith did as a triathlete for many years, though. The 29-year-old Guelph, ON resident trained, competed and won triathlons at the national level before a bad car accident left him sidelined in 2007.

His injury and the rehab process that followed allowed less training and more time for online poker. He played and played all the while still rehabbing and still training to get back into triathlons. Eventually, he’d compete again, but with mixed results.

Recently, he found out he had an undiagnosed labral tear in his hip. The injury requires additional surgery, but after a year-long rehab process he expects to compete again.

Given that context, winning the \$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em tournament, at Casino Lac-Leamy Sunday night surely must have seemed like a walk in the park to the self-described stay at home dad.

“If the surgery goes well I’ll try and take one more shot at being competitive. It’s in me and I’m still passionate about it,” Smith said of triathlons. “But something I’ve always wanted to do is win a big live [poker] tournament.”

The triathlete bested a field that included gold bracelet champions, gold ring winners, and many faces of the Canadian film, entertainment and music industries. He earned \$44,547, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship – a race the third place finisher Adam Podstawka now leads by a slight margin.

Of the 165 players that began the tournament, 11 pledged to donate a portion of their earnings to charity. Of those 11, two joined Smith at the final table. Marc Dupre, a Canadian musician, Felix award winner and judge on the Canadian version of the American television series “The Voice”, finished eighth donating a portion of his \$4,978 to charity. The other, Sebastien Dube, a comedian best known for his role in the Denis Drolet act, finished second, earning \$27,532.

Smith's run to the winner's circle was almost as improbable as many felt his return to triathlons was after his accident. By his own account, he held just two big blinds with 25 players left and only 18 spots finishing in the money.

"Somehow I made it into the cash and then started running well," he said. "It kind of felt like a sick freeroll. You always laugh at the expression about a chip and a chair, but it happened."

Smith plans to get corrective surgery done on his hip this winter. The year-long rehab process that follows will allow him to continue playing poker but when he gets the "okay" from his doctors he'll take one more shot at becoming a national championship caliber athlete.

Smith is 29 years old and describes himself as a stay at home dad who's "not pro at anything". The win marks his first WSOP-related cash but he is an accomplished online player.

Event 4 was the fourth of 10 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Casino Lac-Leamy. The \$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 165 players generating a \$165,000 prize pool. The top 18 players were paid.

Day 1 began Saturday at 12 p.m. and reached the 10-handed final table toward the end of Level 21. The finale began Sunday shortly after 1 p.m. and concluded at about 5:30 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**

- James Wesley began the final table with 679,000 chips while Andre Smith held just 212,000. Wesley finished fifth and Smith broke through for his first live victory.
- Canadian musician and Felix awarded winner, Marc Andre, is the son-in-law of Grammy Award winning singer Celine Dion.

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  
EVENT #3: Marc Carpentier defeated 265 players (\$365 NLH) for \$19,477  
EVENT #4: Andre Smith defeated 165 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$44,547

With the fourth tournament wrapped, six more ring events remain at Casino Lac-Leamy.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com.

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