

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Harrah's Rincon

Valley Center, CA

Event #8

No Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$365

Total Entries: 151

Prize Pool: \$45,300

December 11-12, 2013



Alexandru Masek Wins Record-Tying 7th Gold Ring

Romanian Rounders Rumble for Ring

Valley Center, CA (December 12, 2013) -- Alexandru Masek overcame a 2:1 chip deficit heads up to win his seventh WSOP Circuit gold ring and \$12,231. Valentin Vornicu was battling for ring #3, but fell short, finishing second for \$7,559. Both players are Romanian and are good friends.

Valentin Vornicu had a commanding chip lead when the final table began at 2pm PST Thursday, holding more than half the chips in play. Alexandru Masek had only 163,000 to Vornicu's 778,000 and he said, "At first, I let [Vornicu] run over the table" which he did. Masek busted the 7th and 3rd place finishers while Vornicu took out all the rest, getting them to heads-up after only an hour and a half of play.

With four players remaining, Masek caught a key hand. Holding pocket Kings, he opened and Vornicu shoved on him with J9. The cowboys held up and Masek doubled. "After that," he said, "I had enough chips" to challenge Vornicu.

Heads up play began with Vornicu holding about one million chips to Masek's 500k. Masek proceeded to "grind him down", taking the chip lead during the nearly three hour heads up battle. On the final hand, Vornicu shoved for 21 big blinds with K8 offsuit and ran into Masek's A6. Masek's Ace-high was ahead, but he paired his 6 on the flop to improve to a pair, winning the pot and the tournament.

This event attracted 151 players for a total prize pool of \$45,300. The final 18 players earned a payday. Mary Anne Madruga was the last woman sitting in this event and the only woman to make the money. She finished 5th for \$2,974. The final two players were the only players at the final table to own any WSOP hardware. Full results are available at WSOP.com.

Alexandru Masek recently finished Law School in San Diego, but for now has no plans to practice law. He's going to continue playing poker professionally, applying much of what he learned in school. "Analytical thought, understanding human psychology" applies to both the law and poker. "Aggression and long hours" do as well.

On playing against his friend and fellow Romanian, Masek said "It feels great [to win] but I would have been happy for [Vornicu] if he had won...it would have been bitter-sweet...he's a great player." Masek gets 50 points in the Casino Champion race and toward the National Leaderboard. He's planning to play the main event tomorrow.

Valentin Vornicu picked up another 37.5 points in the Rincon Casino Champion race to go with the 17.5 points he already had for a total of 55 points. That puts him in fourth place. Valentin was last year's Casino Champion here at Harrah's Rincon and he clinched the title finishing 2nd in the very last event of the series.

Final Results

1. Alexandru Masek (San Diego, CA) \$12,231
2. Valentin Vornicu (San Diego, CA) \$7,559
3. Anthony Sansone (Berwyn, IL) \$5,441
4. Tavish Margers (Santee, CA) \$3,988
5. Mary Anne Madruga (San Diego, CA) \$2,974
6. Taylor Pollard (Concord, CA) \$2,257
7. Jody Cooper (San Diego, CA) \$1,742
8. Jon Towers (Pleasant Hill, CA) \$1,367
9. Richard Lanes (Lakeside, CA) \$1,090

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harrah's Rincon's twelve 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 in Spring of 2014.

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 Harrah's Rincon:

- EVENT #1: Drew Merrick defeated 221 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,576
- EVENT #2: Mark Alag defeated 155 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,555
- EVENT #3: Jorge Walker defeated 444 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$29,302
- EVENT #4: Josh Reichard defeated 138 players (\$365 NLH) for \$11,589
- EVENT #5: Nyle Rock defeated 135 players (\$365 NLH) for \$11,341
- EVENT #6: Ted Woolridge defeated 141 players (\$365 Six-Handed NLH) for \$12,054
- EVENT #7: Mitch Schock defeated 74 players (\$365 Pot Limit Omaha) for \$7,548
- EVENT #8: Alexandru Masek defeated 151 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,231

With the eighth ring event completed, four more remain at Harrah's Rincon.

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