

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Harrah's Rincon

Valley Center, CA

Event #10

No Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$1,675

Total Entries: 330

Prize Pool: \$495,000

December 13-16, 2013



Shahin Edalatdju Wins Harrah's Rincon Championship Main Event

Valley Center, CA (December 16, 2013) -- Iranian-born Shahin Edalatdju came to the United States 30 years ago with \$20 in his pocket. "This is the greatest country in the world," he said. "You can be anything you want." Edalatdju is now \$116,325 richer and a WSOP Circuit gold ring winner. He's a self-employed owner of two gas stations in San Diego, so he's got the flexibility to play tournament poker for three straight days.

Edalatdju and second-place finisher Steve Firestone engaged in a fierce heads-up battle that lasted nearly five hours. It was an impressive display of strategic and cautious play from both players, with neither willing to yield chips easily. Heads up play began with Firestone holding a huge lead with 5.2 million to Edalatdju's 1.4 million. He then extended it, soon out-chipping his opponent 6:1. However, Edalatdju mounted a slow and steady comeback, soon taking over the lead, and eventually getting Firestone on the ropes. Edalatdju had Firestone down to eight big blinds, but he was unable to knock him out. Firestone mounted a comeback of his own, retaking the chip lead late in the night.

On the final hand, Edalatdju was ahead with pocket 8s against Steve Firestone's A4. The board changed nothing and the stacks were close and had to be counted down. He had his opponent covered and it was over. Steve Firestone earned \$71,924 for second place.

Here's how the chips were stacked at the start of the final table on Monday:

PLAYER	CITY / STATE / COUNTRY	CHIP COUNT	SEAT
Chris DeMaci	STANTON, CA, US	1,356,000	5
Erle Mankin	SACRAMENTO, CA, US	955,000	7
Steve Firestone	SAN DIEGO, CA, US	907,000	2
Paul Sokoloff	TORONTO, ON, CA	885,000	1
Shahin Edalatdju	SAN DIEGO, CA, US	630,000	6
Robert Mather	Redding, CA, US	575,000	8
MaryAnne Madruga	SAN DIEGO, CA, US	573,000	9
Sean Burson	HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE, CA, US	371,000	4
Craig Francis	La Jolla, CA, US	353,000	3

The two short stacks were the first to do battle. Craig Francis had raised a couple of hands early and had moved ahead of Sean Burson in the chip counts. Then they got all the chips in on a classic race. Burson had pocket 4s and Francis had AJ. An Ace on the river sent the pot to Francis and sent Burson to the rail in 9th place.

A huge three-way pre-flop all-in occurred with Mary Anne Madruga, Robert Mather, and Steve Firestone. Firestone was in the lead with pocket Kings. Mather had pocket Queens and Madruga had AK. The Kings held up and Mather was busted in 8th place. Madruga had a few chips left, but busted out soon after in 7th place. This hand propelled Steve Firestone into the chip lead with 1.5 million.

Another big three-way occurred and on the Ace high flop with two spades, Craig Francis was all-in with a flush draw. Steve Firestone had A2 and Shahin Edalatdju led with A9. Francis missed his draw and busted out in 6th place. Edalatdju effectively tripled up.

Paul Sokoloff got his short stack in against two players who checked down the board. At the river, Erle Mankin produced pocket 5s to take the pot and Paul hit the rail in 5th place.

Chris DeMaci, who began the day as chip leader, had been cut down to the short stack and got all in pre-flop against two players, who checked it down. Shahin Edalatdju had AT for Ace-high to beat Steve Firestone's A8 and DeMaci's 87. DeMaci finished in 4th place.

After the final three returned from dinner break, Erle Mankin got all-in with A3 against Shahin Edalatdju's AT. Edalatdju's kicker played and Mankin exited in 3rd place, setting the stage for the epic heads-up battle to follow.

There were two starting flights/days for this event and players could enter either or both, but only one entry per flight was allowed. Flight A began Friday at 12 noon PST. Flight B began Saturday at 12 noon. Both flights played the same fifteen 40-minute levels, then bagged up for the night. There were a total of 330 entries over both flights, which built a prize pool of \$495,000. This was an increase over last year's attendance of 306 entries. A combined total of 70 players survived their starting flights to make it to Day 2. The final 33 players got paid.

Day 2 began Sunday at 12 noon and play began with a stacked field. One table in particular featured four WSOP bracelet winners: Eric Baldwin, Brent Hanks, Sam Stein, and Robert 'RCW' Cheung. Circuit Ring winner Sean Burson was at that table as well. Of these five players, only Sean Burson made the money, finishing 9th.

Tom McEvoy, member of the Poker Hall of Fame, 1983 WSOP Main Event Champion, and 4-time WSOP bracelet winner made it to Day 2, just a couple of days after finishing 2nd in Event 9, but busted out short of the money. The money bubble burst after a little more than two hours of play on Day 2.

WSOP bracelet holder Arkadiy Tsinis made the money, finishing 30th for \$3,312. Alexandru Masek recently won his seventh career Circuit ring, (Event 8) tying him for first on the all-time list. He started the day with a top-ten chip count, but was eliminated in 25th place (\$3,757). November Niner Soi Nguyen made it all the way to 16th place (\$5,960).

Thomas Beckstead entered Day 2 with a substantial chip lead. He bagged 367,000 at the end of Flight B. His nearest competitor was over 100,000 behind. Mary Anne Madruga, Flight A chip leader, entered Day

2 with 257,500. Madruga made the final table, while Beckstead was the last elimination of Day 2. He finished 10th for \$8,697.

Day 2 playdown from 70 players to the final nine only took ten and a half hours (including a one hour dinner break). In contrast, the final table on Day 3 took nearly 11 hours to play out.

Final Table Results

1. Shahin Edalatdju (San Diego, CA) \$116,325
2. Steve Firestone (San Diego, CA) \$71,924
3. Erle Mankin (Sacramento, CA) \$52,237
4. Chris DeMaci (Stanton, CA) \$38,585
5. Paul Sokoloff (Toronto, Ontario) \$28,967
6. Craig Francis (La Jolla, CA) \$22,092
7. Mary Anne Madruga (San Diego, CA) \$17,112
8. Robert Mather (Redding, CA) \$13,454
9. Sean Burson (Hidden Valley Lake, CA) \$10,737

Drew Merrick accumulated the most overall points during Harrah's Rincon's twelve gold ring tournaments and earned the title Casino Champion. He receives an 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
EVENT #9: Drew Merrick defeated 126 players (\$580 NLH) for \$17,639
EVENT #10: Shahin Edalatdju defeated 330 players (\$1,675 NLH Re-Entry) for \$116,325
EVENT #11: Brian Strey defeated 106 players (\$365 NLH) for \$9,542
EVENT #12: Tim Campbell defeated 89 players (\$365 Turbo NLH) for \$8,545

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