

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 10
Harrah's Tunica
Tunica, MS
Event #5
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 348
Prize Pool: \$104,400
January 27-28, 2014**



Justin Brown Pockets Some Green in Event 5

Indiana pro breaks through for first gold ring and \$24,012 in Harrah's Tunica \$365 event.

Tunica, MS (January 28, 2014) — Close friends by his side, Justin Brown outlasted the 348-player field in Event 5 to earn \$24,012 and a gold ring at Harrah's Tunica Tuesday. The victory comes in a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament and sends the young Indiana pro home with his first Circuit trophy.

From the moment the last river card hit the felt, Brown was engulfed by friends and railbirds Carter Myers, Ben Hunt, Joseph Hebda and Andrew Rothfolk. Together, the group accounts for more than \$450,000 in earnings at the WSOP and three gold rings. More than poker minds, trophies and dollar signs though, they're a support system.

"I travel around with a bunch of good guys. It's invaluable," Brown said of his friends. "The stress of this life has you second-guessing a lot. Having people to reinforce that you're doing the right things, it helps. I don't know how people do it without a group to talk to."

Despite the solid foundation of his relationships and an obvious ability to play the game, Brown explained a Circuit victory eluded him over the years. Prior to tonight's win, he laid claim to six Circuit cashes with his deepest run coming in the form of a fourth-place finish more than a year ago.

"It's a long time coming," a relieved Brown said after the win. "This is my sixth or seventh year coming to Tunica. I've had a couple other deep runs. Nothing like this, obviously."

In the end, the past shortcomings and close calls didn't matter. Brown made his way through a final table that included Circuit ring winner Barry Schultz (ninth) and 2013 National Championship final tablist Nicolas Vaca-Rondon (third).

"I like the money exponentially better," Brown said of his prizes. "The trophy will go in the trophy case with a couple more of them I have."

Brown is 28 years old and hails from Bloomington, IN. Upon graduation from Indiana University he began playing poker full time. His Event 5 victory marks his eighth WSOP-related cash and third final table. Additionally, it moves him over the \$100,000 mark in career earnings.

Event 5 was the fifth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Tunica. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 348 players generating a \$104,400 prize pool. The top 36 players were paid.

Day 1 began Monday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Tuesday at 2 p.m. with 13 players remaining. The nine-handed final table started at 3 p.m. and concluded at 5:45 p.m.

Notes on the Event

- The third-place finish for Nicolas Vaca-Rondon marks his seventh WSOP-related cash and second final table appearance since his 2013 National Championship seventh-place finish.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harrah's Tunica's twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives 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 Harrah's Tunica:

EVENT #1: Mitch Franks defeated 384 players (\$365 NLH) for \$25,341

EVENT #2: Nick Burriss defeated 560 players (\$365 NLH) for \$35,290

EVENT #3: Robert Richardson defeated 1,448 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$74,932

EVENT #4: Robert Hankins defeated 347 players (\$365 NLH) for \$23,941

EVENT #5: Justin Brown defeated 348 players (\$365 NLH) for \$24,012

With the fifth tournament wrapped, seven more ring events remain at Harrah's Tunica.

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