

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 10  
Harrah's Tunica  
Tunica, MS  
Event #8  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)  
Total Entries: 274  
Prize Pool: \$137,000  
January 30-31, 2014**



## **Daniel Rivera Bests Talented Field in Event 8**

**\$580 no-limit hold'em event concludes in the shadow of the Main Event, victor pockets \$32,878.**

**Tunica, MS (January 31, 2014)** — While Day 1A of the Main Event played out at the other end of the tournament room, Daniel Rivera worked his way through the 274-player field in Event 8, a \$580 No-Limit Hold'em tournament. He came out victorious to the tune of a \$32,878 first prize, his first gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

Making the win sweeter was the fact it came at the hands of a talented field that included Circuit regular Bill Varga (30th) and ring winner Nolan Burton (15th). On top of the in-the-money finishers, the final table included the likes of Michael Sanders (ninth) and WSOP final tablists Sean Small and Sean Drake.

Besting the resumes of Drake and Small is nothing to be taken lightly. Together the pair accounts for almost \$330,000 in career earnings at the WSOP, two WSOP final tables, seven Circuit final tables and a gold bracelet – the latter accolade earned by Drake in the 2011 Casino Employee's event.

Fortunately for the rest of the final table, their runs at gold ended in sixth and fourth respectively.

"I had a huge monkey on back I really wanted to take off," Rivera said of the win. "A lot of my friends all won rings and I hadn't been able to."

Years in the making, it's difficult to imagine better timing for the triumphant performance. Registration for the first flight of the Main Event was still open by the time the last river card hit the felt, and while Rivera thought better of registering so late into Flight A, he didn't leave much room for interpretation in regards to Saturday's Flight B.

"I'm going to win it," he said of the Harrah's Tunica finale. "I'm going to go back-to-back. I'm going to go rest, get a steak and then win the Main [Event]."

While it's far too early to anoint him the Circuit's newest Main Event winner, he is in fact the Circuit's hottest player. With a run at a follow-up gold starting tomorrow, he'll be holding his head a little higher than the rest of the field.

Rivera is a 24-year-old pro who was born in Honduras. At the age of 13, the economy in his native country took a turn for the worst and he and his parents moved to Louisiana. Rivera made a life for himself in the States, graduating from Louisiana State University with a degree in Spanish and communication studies.

While he'd work in his field for a while, the degree took a back seat to his true passion of poker.

"Outside of poker, there's really nothing. Everything I do involves poker," he proudly admitted.

Event 8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Tunica. The \$580 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 274 players generating a \$137,000 prize pool. The top 30 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 12 p.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with seven players remaining. Play concluded shortly after 7 p.m.

### **Notes on the Event**

- Sean Drake and Sean Small both final tabled the Casino Employee's Event at the World Series of Poker. Drake's came in the form of a gold bracelet win in 2011 while Small finished sixth in 2013.

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 Burris 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

EVENT #6: Oran Haynes defeated 318 players (\$365 NLH) for \$22,416

EVENT #7: Joseph Hebda defeated 314 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$23,550

EVENT #8: Daniel Rivera defeated 274 players (\$580 NLH) for \$32,878

With the eighth tournament wrapped, four more ring events remain at Harrah's Tunica.

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

For additional information please contact:

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