

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 10
Lumière Place Casino
St. Louis, MO
Event #9
No Limit Hold'em Main Event Championship
Buy-In: \$1,675
Total Entries: 416
Prize Pool: \$624,000
March 28-31, 2013**



Robert 'Uncle Krunk' Panitch Wins Championship Event

Panitch Claims His Second WSOP Circuit Ring

Robert Edelstein Denied Ring #3

St. Louis, MO (March 31, 2014) -- Robert 'Uncle Krunk' Panitch earned his second WSOP Circuit ring the hard way -- after a record-setting heads-up match that lasted nearly ten and a half hours. The win was good for \$137,283. The 62-year-old from Northbrook, IL, came out on top of a field of 416 entries to lock up a repeat appearance in the National Championship.

"I'm not even tired...this woke me up!" he commented shortly after the win. "I want to be mentioned in the same breath as Stan Musial. I started out winning every hand," he said referring to his quick dispatching of the fourth and third place finishers about ten hours earlier.

The heads-up match lasted so long, it gave Panitch, "enough opportunities to catch a card," he said. "I've blown so many big stacks lately". On Friday, the first starting flight of the Main Event, Panitch was at the final table of Event 8, practically tied for the chip lead with three players remaining. An ill-timed bluff cost him his stack and he busted out of that event in third place. He went straight to the cage and entered the Main Event and the rest is history.

Panitch continued, "been playing good, but I have a hard time backing up when I put chips in. I don't like to leave 'em in there...played some good poker at times, but I've got some room for improvement. I have to start taking care of myself."

He's a retired plant salesman and has been playing tournaments for about 8 years. His largest live cash came in last season's National Championship. He finished third in that event for \$156,743. His win today gets him a return engagement where he can try again for the bracelet. But first, he's probably headed for North Carolina for the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit event.

All players who cashed received points on the venue Leaderboard and National Leaderboard towards qualification for the season-ending National Championship, to be played at Bally's Atlantic City May 22-24. For the win, Robert Panitch received an automatic entry into the National Championship. Third-place finisher Peter Nigh claimed the title of Casino Champion

with a total of 107.5 points for his three cashes during this series. He also received an automatic entry into the National Championship.

Despite a one-year hiatus from the St. Louis area, the WSOP Circuit stop at Lumière Place brought out some big guns. Alex Masek set a new record, winning his 8th ring the day before the Championship event started. He made it to Day 2 with a short-stack, but did not make the money. Ari Engel, proud owner of six Circuit rings fired two bullets into the Main but failed to advance to the second day of play. Five-time ring winner Kyle Cartwright did not make it to Day 2. Grant Hinkle, who owns one WSOP bracelet and two circuit rings, made it to Day 2 with an above average stack, but also failed to cash. Original November Niner and ring holder Dennis Phillips fired in both starting flights, but failed to advance to Day 2. Poker personality Bernard Lee fired once, also missing out on Day 2.

There were 416 entries in this year's Main Event, generating a total prize pool of \$624,000. The top 45 finishers earned at least \$2,820. Some of the notables who made the money but came up short of the final table were WSOP bracelet holder James Mackey (44th), Dan Lowery (42nd), DJ MacKinnon (37th), Jacob Bazeley (35th), three-time ring winner Valentin Vornicu (31st), Michael Hahn (28th), Allen Kessler (25th), two-time ring winner Ben Grise (15th), and two-time ring winner John Holley (13th).

The Main Event (officially listed at Event #9) was a three-day \$1,500 + 175 No Limit Hold'em tournament, which featured two starting flights, Friday and Saturday. Flight A fielded 172 players with 53 surviving twelve 40-minute levels of play. Flight B saw 240 entrants with 74 surviving the action. Players were allowed to enter a maximum of twice and 4 players opted to enter before the start of Day 2, for a total of 131 players beginning Day 2.

Day 2 play began early, at 11am, due to the pending change of ownership of the venue, and rather than stop at the final table of nine or at the end of the specified number of levels, they continued play though ten 60-minute levels, plus one 75-minute level that would normally be part of Day 3. Therefore, there were only four players remaining at the end of Day 2.

Final Table Chip Counts:

SEAT 1: Danny Steinberg -- 2,800,000
SEAT 2: Peter Nigh -- 1,000,000
SEAT 3: Nicholas Weber -- 1,150,000
SEAT 4: Millard Hale -- 921,000
SEAT 5: Timothy Bishop -- 130,000
SEAT 6: Robert Panitch -- 1,300,000
SEAT 7: Jonathan Gray -- 139,000
SEAT 8: Michael Holm -- 350,000
SEAT 9: Robert Edelstein -- 550,000

Danny Steinberg held a commanding chip lead heading into the final table and looked primed to continue his domination all the way to a title win. One by one players fell victim to their

opponents and the likes of Tim Bishop (9th), Jonathan Gray (8th), and Michael Holm (7th) were sent to the rail. Throughout all of this, Steinberg found himself losing small pot after small pot, most consistently to Hale. Eventually, Hale crippled Steinberg down to fewer than ten big blinds and he was eliminated soon after in sixth place.

Nick Weber was eliminated in fifth place and that left the final four to play into the early hours of the morning. Due to the pending change of ownership of the venue, they played an extra level on Day 2 so that everything could be wrapped up by midnight of March 31st, when the official turnover takes place.

The chip lead changed hands several times over the next couple of hours as the final four locked horns and were ultimately unable to eliminate another player. Play down from the start of the final table to the end of the night took about two and a half hours.

Day 3 Chip Counts:

Robert "Uncle Krunk" Panitch - 3,025,000 (75 BBs)

Millard Hale - 2,105,000 (52 BBs)

Robert Edelstein - 1,675,000 (41 BBs)

Peter Nigh - 1,515,000 (37 BBs)

Coming into Day 3, Robert 'Uncle Krunk' Panitch was the chip leader with just over 3 million chips. Millard Hale, who has one WSOP Circuit ring, made the mistake of tangling with the only player who could bust him. On an Ace-high board, all the chips went in and Hale's AQ was out-kicked by Panitch's AK. Hale hit the rail in 4th place. Then a short-stacked Peter Nigh made his stand and was busted by Panitch in 3rd place.

Two players were gone and they were heads up only a half hour into Day 3. Robert Panitch held a huge chip lead with 7 million to Robert Edelstein's 1.3 million. What followed was a heads-up battle for the record books, between two Chicago natives. The final table took three hours to get from nine players to the final two. It then took another ten and a half hours to determine a winner.

All players who cashed received points on the venue Leaderboard and National Leaderboard towards qualification for the season-ending National Championship, to be played at Balley's Atlantic City May 22-24. The winner, Robert Panitch, received an automatic entry into the National Championship.

Third-place finisher Peter Nigh claimed the title of Casino Champion with a total of 107.5 points for his three cashes during this series. He also received an automatic entry into the National Championship.

About the Final Table:

1st: Robert Panitch - \$137,283

Hometown: Northbrook, IL

Age: 62

Occupation: Retired
Circuit Earnings: \$248,783, including one previous ring

2nd: Robert Edelstein - \$84,833
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Age: 32
Occupation: Poker Pro / Former Realtor
Circuit Earnings: \$48,323, including 2 rings

3rd: Peter Nigh - \$61,988
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Age: 24
Occupation: Poker Pro
Circuit Earnings: \$61,318, including 3 prior final tables

4th: Millard Hale - \$46,026
Hometown: Kalamazoo, MI
Age: 25
Occupation: Poker Pro
Circuit Earnings: \$139,511, including 1 ring

5th: Nicholas Weber - \$34,707
Hometown: Foristell, MO
Occupation: Student
Circuit Earnings: \$5,878, including one final table

6th: Danny 'Bulldozer' Steinberg
Hometown: Fairfield, IA
Age: 25
Occupation: Poker Pro
Circuit Earnings: \$0

7th: Michael Holm
Hometown: Woodridge, IL
Age: 59
Occupation: Owns Audio/Video Store
Circuit Earnings: \$67,638

8th: Jonathan Gray
Hometown: Quincy, MA
Age: 31
Occupation: Professional Gambler
Circuit Earnings: \$27,119

9th: Timothy Bishop
Hometown: St. Clairsville, OH
Age: 28
Occupation: Poker Pro
Circuit Earnings: \$67,845

Additional Notes on the Final Table:

- There were no WSOP bracelet holders at this final table.
- The final table featured three WSOP Circuit ring winners. Second place finisher Robert Edelstein was the most decorated player with two circuit rings from Horseshoe Cincinnati and Horseshoe Southern Indiana in 2013. Robert Panitch has one prior ring from Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, in 2012. Millard Hale has one ring from Horseshoe Hammond in 2012.
- Although this is Danny Steinberg's first Circuit cash, he has two WSOP-Europe final tables and a total of \$369,519 in WSOP earnings.
- The final table played out over two days. Playdown from nine to four was done late Sunday night and took 2.5 hours. Playdown from four to two took a half hour on Monday. Heads-up play took a record 10 hours, 25 minutes. Total final table playing time was just under 13.5 hours.
- Danny Steinberg was the chip leader at the start of the final table. He finished in 6th place.
- Robert Panitch was the chip leader at the start of Day 3 with four players remaining. The lead went back and forth between Panitch and Robert Edelstein a few times over the course of the ten-plus hours heads-up match.

Full results are available on WSOP.com.

Here are the twelve gold ring winners from 2013/2014 WSOP Circuit series at Lumière Place Casino:

- EVENT #1: Matt Bond defeated 127 players (\$580 NLH) earning \$17,779
- EVENT #2: Andrew Thompson defeated 813 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) earning \$47,570
- EVENT #3: Kevin McColgan defeated 52 players (\$1,125 NLH) earning \$19,500
- EVENT #4: Cody Brinn defeated 240 players (\$365 NLH) earning \$17,997
- EVENT #5: William Otto defeated 125 players (\$580 NLH) earning \$17,494
- EVENT #6: Ben Grise defeated 134 players (\$365 PLO) earning \$11,254
- EVENT #7: Alex Masek defeated 245 players (\$365 Six Max NLH) earning \$19,474
- EVENT #8: BJ McBrayer defeated 150 players (\$580 NLH) earning \$20,997
- EVENT #9: Robert Panitch defeated 416 players (\$1,675 NLH) earning \$137,283
- EVENT #10: Peter Brooks defeated 167 players (\$365 NLH) earning \$13,526
- EVENT #11: Frank Patti defeated 91 players (\$580 NLH) earning \$13,652
- EVENT #12: Adam Gibbs defeated 87 players (\$365 Turbo NLH) earning \$8,353

With the Main Event wrapped, that concludes the Lumière Place Casino WSOP Circuit series. The 2013/2014 Circuit heads down south for the next stop at Harrah's Cherokee (North Carolina) beginning Thursday. [Full details on that stop are available on WSOP.com.](#)

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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