

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit Caesars Palace Las Vegas Event #5

No Limit Hold'em Buy-In: \$365

**Total Entries: 347** 

**Total Prize Pool: \$104.100** 

**Tournament Dates: February 24th February 25th** 

Texas amateur Michael Santos grabs the brass...er...gold ring from the Circuit vets.

## Las Vegas, NV (February 25, 2014)

Plenty of people would argue that Caesars Palace Las Vegas boasts some of the toughest fields on the WSOP Circuit, but even by Sin City standards, the final table of Event 5, a \$365 No Limit Hold'em event, was pretty absurd. In a line-up of nine, there were more players with rings than without. Five players came into the final table looking to add to their Circuit hardware collection, including Sal Musto, the Event 1 winner in this series looking to solidify his standings in the Casino Champion contest. Musto did get sole posession of the lead, but his seventh place finish leaves him with 70 points and plenty of room for someone else to catch up.

The ring winners made their push for the title, but fell along the way, leaving an amateur the last man standing. Michael Santos, a recreational poker player from San Antonio, Texas managed to outlast the competition at a final table some, at first glance, might suggest had him outclassed. Santos more than established that wasn't the case though, navigating through the tough field, securing victory when he knocked off ring winner and Caesars Palace Poker Room regular Jeff Dorrin during heads-up play to bring the tournament to a conclusion after a long day of play. For his efforts, Santos earned \$23,942 in addition to some serious bragging rights.

When asked if the victory so many others at the table were craving to repeat meant something to him, Santos adamantly responded with an, "Absolutely!"

A sales manager who spends time both at the Choctaw Casino and in Vegas to get his poker fixes, this is a career score and a milestone achievement. While he was at the final table, Santos didn't realize how many of his competitors had such extensive Circuit

resumes. He readily admits he was up against some great players, but it did seem like once he realized just what kind of field he overcame to join this club of ring winners, this win absolutely became a little bit sweeter.

## **Notes on the Event**

- -Sal Musto's seventh place finish in this event gives him the sole possession of the lead in the Casino Champion race with 70 points.
- -This final table featured more players with rings than without, as five had previously won Circuit events: Three-time ring winner Nancy Birnbaum, Tim Campbell, Sal Musto, Jeff Dobrin, and Robert Panitch, who also finished third in the 2013 WSOP National Championship.
- -Nancy Birnbaum is the first woman to make a final table this Circuit series.

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With his win, Michael Santos earns 50 points towards the Casino Champion contest. The current frontrunner his ring winner Sal Musto, whose seventh place finish in this event gives him sole possession of the lead midway-through the series. The player who earns the most Circuit points over the course of twelve-day series earns the title Casino Champion as well as an automatic seat into the 2014 National Championship to be held in Atlantic City May 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.

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 Caesars Palace Las Vegas so far:

EVENT #1: Sal Musto defeated 432 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$28,514 EVENT #2: Eric Fields defeated 890 entries (\$365 re-entry) for \$52,066 EVENT #3: Daniel Heredi defeated 208 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$27,043 EVENT #4: Daniel Zack defeated 158 players (\$1,125 NLHE) for \$42,662 EVENT #5: Michael Santos defeated 347 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$23,942

There are still seven more gold ring events before the WSOP Circuit at Caesars Palace Las Vegas concludes on March 3rd.

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:

Jessica Welman jwelman@caesars.com 702-407-6560