



## **2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit Season 10**

**Caesars Palace Las Vegas**

**Las Vegas, NV**

**Event #10 No Limit Hold'em Main Event**

**Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)**

**Total Entries: 697**

**Prize Pool: \$1,045,500**

**February 28-March 3**

### **Christian Pham defeats the pros to win Caesars Palace Circuit Main Event and \$214K**

**Las Vegas, NV (March 3, 2014)** — Shortly before Christian Pham took his seat in the Caesars Palace Las Vegas Circuit Main Event, he and his friends had a Chinese dinner that ended with a fortune cookie. That fortune cookie read, "All your dreams will come true."

That cookie sure wasn't lying.

Just a few days ago, Christian Pham was home in St Paul, Minnesota with no intention of playing poker in Sin City. However, he got a call from a backer offering to put him into the Circuit event and fly him out to boot. On a single day's notice, Pham hopped a plane to Vegas with dreams of making his poker dreams come true. Today, he did just that, winning the Circuit Main Event here in Las Vegas, earning \$214,332, the Circuit ring, and the seat into the 2014 WSOP National Championship in Las Vegas.

To add even more to Pham's Cinderella story, consider that he won his way into the Main Event via a \$200 satellite. While Pham has a track record of results in Minnesota, this was his first big Vegas event and he made the most of this once in a lifetime opportunity at just a fraction of the cost of the buy-in.

With his sponsors and friends cheering him on, Pham played his way through a field that included bracelet winners, Main Event final tablists, and some of the best pros on the Circuit.

The final table featured competition in the form of Chris Lindh, the 16<sup>th</sup> place finisher in last year's WSOP Main Event, ring winner Ben Keeline, and Jonathan Gavião, who is just a month removed from his Main Event victory in the Harrah's Tunica Main Event.

Pham came into the final day of play as the shortest stack of 14 players and certainly one of the least experienced, but that didn't stop him from chipping up. He doubled thru Chris Lindh during the first hour of play and never looked back, knocking out opponents, picking off bluffs, and pulling off some bluffs of his own.

Even though it was Pham making waves, as the final table field thinned, all eyes focused on Gavião, who was attempting to become the first player to win two Circuit Main Events in the same season. While Gavião came up short of the second title, finishing in second place to Pham, he has put together one of the most impressive stretches of Main Event results we've seen on the Circuit in a couple of years. First, he took 14<sup>th</sup> in the Choctaw Main Event, then he won at Harrah's Tunica, and now he has a second place finish and another six-figure score to add to his career earnings.

It was quite a run for Gavião, but today belonged to Pham, who played with panache at the table, acting quickly, keeping up the aggression, and throwing in a little theatricality for good measure. As he explained following his victory, he knew he was a good poker player based on his Minnesota results, but this was his chance to prove himself on a larger stage.

Pham did just that, defeating a stacked field of 697 entries in this year's event, and now he has a national stage at his disposal come May when he takes his seat in the 2014 WSOP National Championship in Atlantic City. When Pham learned he would be playing in front of the ESPN cameras for a gold bracelet and a chance at the lion's share of a seven-figure prize pool, it sounded too good to be real.

It is though. As the fortune cookie says, it is a poker player's dream come true.

The Main Event was the 10<sup>th</sup> of 12 gold rings on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Caesars Palace. The Main Event attracted 697 entries, generating a \$1,045,500. The tournament featured two starting flights on Friday and Saturday. Friday's flight drew 303 players, while another 394 played in Saturday, including several people who took advantage of the single re-entry option in this tournament. Day 2 began with 129 runners, while the third and final day started with 14 players remaining in the field.

Final Table seating assignments:

Seat 1: Chris Lindh

Seat 2: Andrew Sapiro

Seat 3: Jesse Wilke

Seat 4: Ofer Akerman

Seat 5: Michael Ma

Seat 6: Allen "Sheng Yu" Lin

Seat 7: Jonathan Gavião

Seat 8: Nancy Birnbaum

Seat 9: Christian Pham

About the final table:

1st: Christian Pham

Hometown: St Paul, MN

Occupation: Advertising Manager

WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

2nd: Jonathan Gavião - \$132,622

Hometown: College Station, TX

Occupation: Professional poker player

WSOP earnings: \$6,165

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$207,976

3rd: Allen "Yu Sheng" Lin - \$97,273

Hometown: Yukon, Canada

Occupation: N/A

WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

4th: Michael Ma - \$72,338

Hometown: London, ON, CAN

Occupation: N/A

WSOP earnings: \$17,631

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

5<sup>th</sup>: Andrew Sapiro - \$54,523

Hometown: Alamo, CA

Occupation: Professional poker player

WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$35,748

6th: Nancy Birnbaum - \$41,642

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Occupation: Professional poker player

WSOP earnings: \$10,423

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$174,050

7th: Ofer Akerman - \$32,222

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Occupation: Self-employed

WSOP earnings: \$0

WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

8<sup>th</sup>: Jesse Wilke - \$25,259  
Hometown: Kenmore, WA  
Occupation: Professional poker player  
WSOP earnings: \$43,116  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$15,765

9<sup>th</sup>: Chris Lindh - \$20,053  
Hometown: Las Vegas, NV  
Occupation: Professional poker player  
WSOP earnings: \$366,604  
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$4,719

### **Notes on the Event**

-Jonathan Gavião was close to making history as the first player to win two Circuit Main Events in the same season, but came up short in second place.

-Nancy Birnbaum was also trying to make history as the first female Circuit Main Event winner, but settled for sixth place at what was her third final table of the Vegas series. She briefly took the lead in the Casino Champion race, but Daniel Heredi surpassed her thanks to his run in Event 12 to take the title.

-Numerous bracelet winners cashed in this event including Brandon Cantu (18<sup>th</sup>), Arkadiy Tsinis (24<sup>th</sup>), and Josh Pollock (58<sup>th</sup>)

The player who won the Casino Champion contest is Daniel Heredi, who won both Events 3 and 12 in addition to cashing in two others to amass an astonishing 122.5 points—the most anyone has earned in a single stop all season. Like Pham, he will be travelling to Atlantic City in May for the WSOP National Championship bracelet event.

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  
EVENT #6: Darren Rabinowitz defeated 378 players (\$365 Six-max) for \$27,216  
EVENT #7: Andrew Robinson defeated 317 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$37,247  
EVENT #8: Doug Lee defeated 166 players (\$365 PLO) for \$13,444  
EVENT #9: Christopher Louviere defeated 438 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$28,906  
EVENT #10: Christian Pham defeated 697 entries (Main Event) for \$214,322

EVENT #11: Venerando Villarino defeated 302 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$21,291

EVENT #12: Daniel Heredi defeated 203 players (\$365 Turbo) for \$17,326

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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