

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit**  
**The Bicycle Casino**  
**Event #12**  
**No Limit Hold'em Main Event**  
**Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)**  
**Total Entries: 756**  
**Total Prize Pool: \$1,134,000**  
**March 15-19, 2014**

## **Nipun Java Takes Home Gold at Bicycle Casino Main Event**

**Software engineer bests Shane Schleger heads up to win the cash, his first Circuit ring, and a National Championship seat.**

**Los Angeles, California (March 19, 2014)** – On Wednesday, the World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event at The Bicycle Casino dealt its final hand. In the end it was Nipun Java who rose above the rest to claim \$226,785 in first-place prize money. Nipun's victory also earned him his first gold Circuit ring and a spot among the Circuit elite at the National Championship in May.

The Main Event at The Bike was one of the longer tournament stops on the Circuit this year. The tournament had three starting flights, which allowed for five full days of play before a victor was crowned. The tournament was a re-entry event where players were allowed to fire off a maximum of two bullets over the course of the three starting flights or the beginning of Day 2. Ultimately, the event drew 756 entries, allowing for a total prize pool of \$1,134,000 and smashing the \$1,000,000 guarantee.

Familiar faces and amateurs alike took their seats for play and one by one they fell victim to the tournament field. The top 81 players made the money and were guaranteed a min-cash of at least \$2,825. Notable players such as Nancy Birnbaum, Chris DeMacy, Charles "Woody" Moore, Cauffman Talley, and Tim West were just a few of those to find elimination in the money.

The third and final day of play began with 13 players remaining. Java held the lead coming into the day, and while the chip lead changed hands many times throughout the day, Java remained steadfast in his quest for victory. Most of the day's eliminations came at Java's hands and by the end of the day he found himself heads up with once professional, now recreational tournament player Shane "shaniac" Schleger. The match came to a head almost instantly, however, as Java put the nail in the coffin in just two hands.

"This feels great," said Java after his victory. "If you play poker you play for a win. That's one of the goals when you start playing – especially tournament formats. So yeah, this feels pretty awesome."

Java was just another face grinding it out in a massive field for the first day and a half of play. Then, post-dinner break on Day 2, Java found the perfect string of cards and turned into an almost unstoppable force.

"I went into Day 2 with a top 20% stack," said Java. "At the end of Day 2 I had the biggest rush I've had in a long, long time. Whether I had the worst hand or the best hand, I won the pot and eliminated a lot of people. It made me realize how much importance luck is in a tournament. But, I'll take it!"

Once the final table was reached, Java's chip stack fluctuated between chip leader and middle of the pack. That said, whenever the money went in before the flop Java was able to pull away with a win. On his path to victory, Java won three crucial preflop races to eliminate Bao Dao, Jack Duong, and Danny Illingworth.

"We hit the final table and basically I didn't pick up any starting hands," said Java. "We were playing nine-handed, six-handed, whatever, and I was just grinding. I really tried to pick my spots. Luckily, I won all of the hands that mattered in terms of showdown. Whenever there was an all in spot, I won those hands. I did win an insane number of flips in the past few days. I've lost count how many I won."

Once three-handed play was reached, Java's weapon of choice was none other than big-slick. Java got both David Chase and Schleger all in before the flop with ace-king and dominated them both all of the way to victory. Now, Java will see if he can parlay this victory into a bracelet win in the National Championship.

"It was never in my mind I'd even go there," said Java about the National Championship. "It feels awesome."

Final table results were as follows:

- 1st – Nipun Java - \$226,785
- 2nd – Shane Schleger - \$139,820
- 3rd – David Chase - \$103,080
- 4th – Danny Illingworth - \$76,830
- 5th – Jack Duong - \$58,025
- 6th – Bao Dao - \$44,395
- 7th – Christopher Hyden - \$34,395
- 8th – Zewdie Wondimagegnehu - \$26,980
- 9th – Javid Javani - \$21,420

## **Notes on the Event**

- This victory marks Java's first Circuit ring and his seventh WSOP-related cash.
- Schleger's runner-up finish marks his first six-figure live score since 2007.
- Noted tournament professional Will "The Thrill" Failla was eliminated from play as the bubble boy.

Nipun Java earns a seat to the National Championship thanks to his victory in the Main Event. Casino Champion Mike Leah, who notably won two of the rings at this stop in one 24-hour period, will join him on the felt. Both players receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place on May 22-24 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](http://WSOP.com).

Here is the list of gold ring winners from The Bicycle Casino:

EVENT #1: Huy Quach defeated 245 players (\$365 NLH) for \$18,000.  
EVENT #2: Cory Waaland defeated 773 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$46,410.  
EVENT #3: Valentin Vornicu defeated 107 players (\$580 NLH) for \$18,170.  
EVENT #4: Nguyen Tran defeated 171 players (\$365 LO8) for \$13,835.  
EVENT #5: Art Cadena defeated 174 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,110.  
EVENT #6: Zeke Ramirez defeated 149 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,520.  
EVENT #7: William Wolf defeated 170 players (\$365 NLH Six Max) for \$14,285.  
EVENT #8: Shahan Martirosian defeated 167 players (\$365 NLH) for \$13,535  
EVENT #9: Mike Leah defeated 121 players (\$580 NLH) for \$16,945.  
EVENT #10: Edward Liu defeated 92 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$27,600  
EVENT #11: Mike Leah defeated 198 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$15,440  
EVENT #12: Nipun Java defeated 756 players (\$1,675 Main Event) for \$226,785

That does it for the tournament coverage from The Bicycle Casino. The Circuit's next stop is Lumiere Palace Casino & Hotels in St. Louis, Missouri. As always, 12 new ring winners will be crowned at this stop and two more players will win seats into the National Championship.

For more information about the World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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