

**2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit
Harrah's Cherokee
Event #3
Pot-Limit Omaha
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 257
Total Prize Pool: \$77,100
April 4-5, 2014**

Harold Mahaffey Bests Event 3 Field to Seize Gold

Circuit regular overjoyed to earn first gold ring and over \$18,000 in prize money

Cherokee, North Carolina (April 5, 2014) – On Saturday evening, a dream came true for Harold Mahaffey. After years of grinding the Circuit, the Anderson, South Carolina native was finally able to seize his first gold ring by besting a 257-player field in Event 3: \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha. On top of the ring, Mahaffey was awarded with \$18,888 in first-place prize money.

“This is awesome,” said Mahaffey after his victory. “I’ve been trying to get a ring for a long time so this is pretty cool.”

That’s not to say Mahaffey hasn’t come close in the past. His first recorded live tournament cash was a fourth place in the Circuit Main Event in Tunica in 2006 for over \$75,000. Three Circuit final tables and eight years later, Mahaffey was able to seize redemption and claim what he called was “the best feeling [he’s] ever had in poker.”

Day 2 of this event resumed with none other than Circuit ring winner Daniel Lowery holding the chip lead with 15 players remaining. Lowery continued his domination up to the final table, but lost his footing after a key confrontation with Mahaffey.

“I had aces double suited and [Lowery] had aces with a six-four,” Mahaffey said. “We got it all in preflop and he flopped an open-ended straight draw. There was one club and it came runner-runner club to give me the flush. I hate to beat him that way because Dan is a great Omaha player. I thought coming in that he was the one to beat at the final table.”

From that point on, Mahaffey held one of if not the biggest stack at the table. He was able to use his experience and newly attained chips to his advantage throughout the rest of the final table.

“That was a turning point for me,” said Mahaffey about the key hand with Lowery. “That was the only time I was all in the whole tournament. That was the only time I was at risk. It was my time.”

Throughout the highs and lows of the day, Mahaffey’s wife sat close at hand on the rail. She cheered him on and gave him an immense amount of support as he attempted and succeeded at achieving one of his poker dreams.

“My wife is the bomb,” said Mahaffey, overcome with emotion. “I am very lucky.”

Final table results were as follows:

1st – Harold Mahaffey - \$18,888
2nd – William Davis - \$11,671
3rd – Dang Tran - \$8,432
4th – Eric Spencer - \$6,206
5th – Don Haupt - \$4,649
6th – Timothy Sewell - \$3,543
7th – Daniel Lowery - \$2,745
8th – James Manning - \$2,161
9th – Greg Miller - \$1,729

Notes on the Event

- Daniel Lowery, who finished seventh, made back-to-back Pot Limit Omaha final tables. At the previous stop in St. Louis, Lowery scored a sixth-place finish in the PLO event.

- This marks the only non-hold'em ring awarded at this stop.

- After eight years of cashes on the Circuit, Harold Mahaffey was able to earn his first gold ring.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place on May 22-24 at Caesars Atlantic City this spring. Mahaffey earned 50 points for his win which puts him in an early tie for first place in the Casino Champion race.

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 The Bicycle Casino:

EVENT #1: Mark Saporito defeated 700 players (\$365 NLH) for \$43,048.

EVENT #2: TBD

EVENT #3: Harold Mahaffey defeated 257 players (\$365 PLO) for \$18,888

With the completion of this event, there are still nine more rings to be awarded, including Event 2: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em, which is currently in progress. The \$1,675 Main Event kicks off Friday, April 11, 2014.

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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