

2013/2014 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 10

Harrah's New Orleans

New Orleans, LA

Event #5

No Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$365

Total Entries: 229

Prize Pool: \$68,700

May 11-12, 2013



Matthew Batoon Wins First WSOP Circuit Ring

New Orleans, LA (May 12, 2014) -- On winning his first Circuit ring, Matthew Batoon said, "Feels real sweet!" He also picks up \$17,174 in first-place prize money. The 32-year-old has been playing tournaments for about seven years and this is his first win in a major event. He got his start in basement games at UT Austin while studying cultural anthropology. "Studying people and how they interact" has helped him understand his opponents at the poker table.

Heads-up play against Dennis Crowley began with Batoon holding a 3:1 chip lead. They battled for about a half-hour before the final hand played out. Crowley check-raised all-in on the turn with a pair and opened straight draw. Batoon looked him up with top pair and it held for the win. Crowley collected \$10,616 for second place. This was his second final table of this series. He finished 5th in Event 2. With a total of 62.5 points, he is now the leader in the Casino Champion race.

Natasha Barbour was the last woman remaining in this event. She has one Circuit ring and a WSOP Ladies pendant from Lake Tahoe last year. She was battling for her second ring, but ended up finishing in 3rd place.

There were two WSOP bracelet holders at this final table. The other one was Andrew Spears. He was the first eliminated, finishing 9th. More importantly, he earned 15 points. Added to the 137.5 points he already had brings his total to 152.5, moving him up to 32nd place on the National Leaderboard. That should be enough to punch his ticket into the National Championship.

Joe Santoro was the chip leader at the start of the final table. He ran pocket Tens into Natasha Barbour's pocket Aces to double her up, then busted out soon after in 7th place. Terry Wesley Thomas Jr. was the chip leader at the start of Day 2. He reported to the rail in 5th place.

Event 5 started at 3pm Sunday afternoon and drew 229 players on Mother's Day. The total prize pool came to \$68,700 and was paid out to the final 24 players. After 18 levels of play on Day 1, there were still 11 players left in the hunt. They returned at 2pm Monday and by the end of the first 40-minute level they had reached the final table. The final table played out in about four and a half hours.

Matthew Batoon had 47.5 points coming into this event, so now he's up to 97.5, which gets him into the top 100 on the National Leaderboard. He's planning to stick around and play the rest of the series and take a shot at qualifying for the National Championship or winning his way in as Casino Champion.

Final Table Results

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>CITY / STATE / COUNTRY</u>	<u>CASH EARNED</u>
1	Matthew Batoon	Austin, TX, US	\$17,174
2	Dennis Crowley	PEARLAND, TX, US	\$10,616
3	Natasha Barbour	TAMPA, FL, US	\$7,726
4	Rogelio Salinas III	San Antonio, TX, US	\$5,714
5	Terry Thomas	Clarksville, AR, US	\$4,292
6	David Banner	Houston, TX, US	\$3,274
7	Joseph Santoro	ORLANDO, FL, US	\$2,535
8	Wesley Cutshall	CYPRESS, TX, US	\$1,992
9	Andrew Spears	Buffalo, NY, US	\$1,589

Full results are available on WSOP.com.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harrah's New Orleans twelve gold ring tournaments will earn the title Casino Champion and receive automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship to take place at Bally's Atlantic City May 22-24, 2014.

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. This is the final stop of the season and all the at-large qualifiers will be determined by the conclusion of this series.

More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's New Orleans:

EVENT #1: Louis George defeated 281 players (\$365 NLH) earning \$20,233
EVENT #2: Larry Hirons defeated 332 players (\$365 NLH) earning \$22,909
EVENT #3: David Nicholson defeated 116 players (\$365 PLO) earning \$10,441
EVENT #4: Austin Apicella defeated 698 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) earning \$42,933
EVENT #5: Matthew Batoon defeated 229 players (\$365 NLH) earning \$17,174

With five ring events completed, seven more remain in this series.

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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