

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #3

H.O.R.S.E.

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 89

Prize Pool: \$26,700

August 2-3, 2014



Joaquin Granados Prevails in HORSE

Retired chemist finds the winning formula at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, earns \$8,545 and first ring in \$365 HORSE tournament.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (August 3, 2014) — It was about seven years ago when Joaquin Granados looked in the mirror and decided his professional life wasn't where he wanted it to be. He was a chemist, primarily working with lab samples, and the day-to-day duties were starting to feel less like unique challenges and more like rehearsed obligations. At just 48 years old he decided to leave the science world behind, hung up his lab coat and took on a new venture – poker.

“It was just the same stuff every time,” Granados said of working in a lab. “Finally I said, ‘You know what? I need to go into another area.’ I just picked poker and I stuck with it... I knew I had the knowledge to become a player to compete in this game, but I knew it was going to take some time.”

And take some time it did.

“I struggled throughout the process, but it always [kept] me coming back,” Granados said of his transition to the poker world. You always concentrate on the big prize. I look at it as a long term process, but when you get there then you know you've done it.”

Granados did “it” Sunday night at the West Palm Beach Kennel Club outlasting 89 players in Event 3, a \$365 HORSE tournament, to earn his first career gold ring and \$8,545. Admittedly the process was not easy and didn't come without hardships, but now, seven years later, Granados considers himself a full-fledged pro and has the hardware to match his job title.

“You search for [a ring] for a while and you want to get it,” he said. “A lot of times you have doubts about yourself and question your playing. Sometimes you wonder whether you belong here. It's nice to get the ring and be satisfied with [myself]. To me it justifies that what I'm doing is right.”

Joining Granados during the late stages of play was ring winner and now-25-time Circuit casher Paul “Bicycle” Sokoloff. Fortunately for Granados, Sokoloff was a non-issue in the event as he returned for Day 2 fourth in the counts but quickly plummeted toward the bottom. He would eventually grace the nine-handed final table, but ultimately could not overcome his short stack

as he hit the rail 9th. From there, the battle proved to be no easier for Granados, but he grinded his opponents down until finally overcoming a sizable heads-up chip lead held by Gary Finkel to secure his ring.

The tournament marked the second non-hold'em event of the PBKC Circuit and the third of 12 gold ring events set for this year's schedule. The property, a perennial attendance powerhouse in its typical winter time slot, kicks off the Circuit season this year with the first of two series its set to host between now and February. Still on the schedule for this year are a \$365 six-max tournament as well as a \$1,125 no-limit hold'em tournament and the \$1,675 Main Event set to begin this Friday.

A complete schedule of events is available on WSOP.com.

Event 3 was the third of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at PBKC. The \$365 HORSE event attracted 89 entries. The total prize pool came to \$26,700 and the top nine players were paid.

Day 1 began Saturday at 5 p.m. and lasted 16 levels. Day 2 began Sunday at 3 p.m. with 12 players remaining. The eight-handed final table began shortly after 5 p.m. and concluded at 10:30 p.m. making the total duration of the finale five and a half hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from PBKC:

EVENT #1: TBD

EVENT #2: Claudangelo Beaudouin defeated 101 players (\$365 PLO8) for \$9,089

EVENT #3: Joaquin Granados defeated 89 players (\$365 HORSE) for \$8,545

The player who accumulates the most overall points during PBKC's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place this spring at a yet-to-be-determined location.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 54 expected 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.

With the third tournament wrapped, nine more gold ring events remain on the PBKC Circuit schedule.

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