

## 2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #6

No-Limit Hold'em Six-Handed

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

Total Entries: 145

Prize Pool: \$43,500

August 5-6, 2014



## No More Monkey on Juan Mendoza's Back

Three-time Circuit runner up breaks through in his fourth attempt, earns \$12,398 and first ring in \$365 six-handed event.

Back-to-back Harrah's Cherokee Casino Champion takes the lead in the Palm Beach Kennel Club race.

**West Palm Beach, Fla. (August 6, 2014)** — Juan Mendoza silenced the critics Wednesday afternoon at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in Event 6, a \$365 six-handed ring event. The 27-year-old North Carolina pro bested 145 entries to earn \$12,398, take the lead in the Casino Championship through six events and don his first Circuit gold ring.

For Mendoza, the victory was a long time coming. During last year's tour he became the first player to win back-to-back Casino Championships at a property – a feat he accomplished at Harrah's Cherokee. Unfortunately for him, he earned his points in the form of two runner ups, a sixth-place finish and a handful of deep runs sending him home with no gold two years in a row.

From there, the second-place finishes followed him to the 2014/2015 season and the PBKC. He kicked off the season's first stop with a deep run in Event 2, but alas, fell one place short as he saw Claudangelo Beaudouin claim the ring he so desperately wanted.

Little did Mendoza know, he'd get another shot just a few days later.

He made his way through field in the aforementioned six-handed event, secured his seat for Day 2 and eventual found himself heads-up against Edward LeBlanc. Despite a severe chip disadvantage, this time would be different for Mendoza. He doubled with aces and then again with 10s before hitting runner-runner straight cards against LeBlanc's top pair to officially snag his first ring.

"I was hoping [I would win a ring] sometime soon and I did," Mendoza said. "I've been very lucky. I ran very, very well this tournament... [LeBlanc flopped] a king and I [hit] a runner-runner straight with pocket 10s. I definitely ran real well."

Despite past close calls and the disappointment that followed, Mendoza insists he remained motivated throughout. What he appreciates about the Circuit is whether you're in search of

National Championship points, trophies or money, there's always something to play for and it's never time to throw in the towel.

"I play for all the reasons," he said of the Circuit. "If I can get points, that's awesome. The money is probably the most important thing, of course. If I can get a seat and a chance to get a big payday in the National Championship, that's an amazing opportunity as well."

Until Wednesday, Mendoza never laid claim to a Circuit victory, but he was a two-time champion in his own right and the envy of many National Championship hopefuls. Now though, he's added a gold ring to his resume and given himself a great start toward a third consecutive National Championship berth.

"A lot of hard work has finally paid off. It's a very big accomplishment," Mendoza said.

Event 6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at PBKC. The \$365 no-limit hold'em six-handed event attracted 145 entries. The total prize pool came to \$43,500 and the top 15 players were paid.

Day 1 began Tuesday at 11 a.m. and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Wednesday at 2 p.m. with four players remaining. Action concluded at roughly 3 p.m. making the total duration of the event about 16 hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from PBKC:

EVENT #1: Avery Bass defeated 958 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$95,000  
EVENT #2: Claudangelo Beaudouin defeated 101 players (\$365 PLO8) for \$9,089  
EVENT #3: Joaquin Granados defeated 89 players (\$365 HORSE) for \$8,545  
EVENT #4: Dolline Willis defeated 154 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,474  
EVENT #5: Brian Reinert defeated 141 players (\$365 NLH) for \$11,844  
EVENT #6: Juan Mendoza defeated 145 players (\$365 NLH Six-Handed) for \$12,398

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 56 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 sixth tournament wrapped, six more gold ring events remain on the PBKC Circuit schedule.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter @WSOP or check out WSOP.com.

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