

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

IP Casino Resort and Spa

Biloxi, Miss.

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 125

Prize Pool: \$37,500

September 4-5, 2014



Mark Fink Wins Second Ring in IP Biloxi Opener

The Gulf Coast property hosts 12 gold ring events between now and September 15.

Austin Buchanan finishes third, remains ringless following 26th career cash and 11th final table appearance.

Biloxi, Miss. (September 5, 2014) — Mark Fink kicked off the 2014 IP Casino Resort and Spa Circuit series with a bang Friday night earning his second gold ring in Event 1. The 35-year-old South Dakota resident outlasted 125 players in the \$365 event to claim the \$10,500 first prize and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

“I’ve got quite a few cashes on the Circuit, but [I only had] one ring,” Fink said of his resume. “I didn’t want to be one of those guys. I’m definitely happy to pick up a second one. It gives a little validity to the first one I think.”

When it comes to Fink, ring number two helps solidify a rap sheet that wasn’t in need of solidifying to begin with. Prior to Friday’s victory, the part-time electrical contractor, part-time poker pro had amassed 24 cashes including a gold ring win, 12 final table appearances and more than \$100,000 in earnings. His most recent milestone alters the majority of those numbers only slightly, but adds one to the most important column – gold rings won.

If Fink was on one end of the spectrum Friday night, Austin Buchanan was on the other. Buchanan, a now-26-time Circuit casher and 11-time final tablist, came to the Event 1 finale as the chip leader. He held better than one-third of the total chips in play with nine players remaining and was the odds-on favorite to earn his first gold ring.

“I figured we would get into a big hand at some point,” Fink said of Buchanan. “He was on my immediate left and he was the only guy that had more chips than me. He’s a great player. I was pulling for him to win if I couldn’t, of course.”

Fink wouldn’t be the one to deliver the fatal blow to Buchanan, but he crippled the 26-year-old pro when he got his last 365,000 in holding [ks][kc] against Buchanan’s [ac][qc]. The board ran out no help to either player and Buchanan sent a 750,000-chip pot Fink’s way while he was left with barely 50,000.

As expected, Buchanan battled back and put himself within reach of a heads-up berth, but alas, exited third, two spots shy of his first gold ring. He is now tied with Drennon Rackley for fifth on the list of all-time Circuit cashes without a ring at 26.

The Event 1 champion is a 35-year-old semi-pro from Sioux Falls, S.D. When he isn't traveling the Circuit he can be found on a jobsite where he works as an electrical contractor for his father's business.

"The construction industry is not really where I love to be, but I do love being around friends and family," Fink said. "I'm really grateful to my dad's company. It helps me to be able to go on these trips and spend so much time on the road. Not everyone can do that. I'm really blessed and lucky."

To the media, players and many individuals on the rail, Event 1 was all about Fink and his second win on the Circuit. To Fink though, the moment wasn't about him at all.

"I try to live my life for Jesus and make everything about that, but it's really hard to do in this world," he said. "It's so easy to get wrapped up in everything secular. [My faith] is always on my mind – at least when I'm not wrapped up in a hand, of course."

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at IP Biloxi. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 125 players. The total prize pool came to \$37,500 and the top 15 players were paid.

Action began Thursday at 12 p.m. and Day 1 lasted 18 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 3 p.m. with nine players remaining. Play concluded at 7:45 p.m. making the total duration of the event about 17 hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from IP Biloxi:

EVENT #1: Mark Fink defeated 125 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,500

The player who accumulates the most overall points during IP Biloxi'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.

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

For additional information please contact:

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lukasmwillems@gmail.com.