

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Elizabeth, Ind.

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 184

Prize Pool: \$55,201

October 2-3, 2014



David Leonard Wins HSI Opener

The first of 12 gold ring events concludes with Indianapolis resident in the winner's circle. Leonard pockets \$14,352 and gold ring.

Pete Lawson narrowly misses second victory of the 2014/2015 season, finishes runner up for \$8,866.

Elizabeth, Ind. (October 3, 2014) — David Leonard parlayed his final table chip lead into a gold ring victory and \$14,352 score in Event 1, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament, at Horseshoe Southern Indiana (HSI) Friday night. The win marked the second of Leonard's career and moved him into the early lead for the HSI Casino Championship.

Leonard, an accomplished amateur with nearly \$100,000 in earnings at the WSOP alone, was quick to tip his cap to his competitors, specifically runner-up Pete Lawson. By his own account, Lawson, who won a ring earlier this season at IP Biloxi, lays claim to \$800,000 in online cashes and recently made a return to the live felt where he's amassed \$500,000 in earnings.

Lawson's solid play from Biloxi, Miss. translated to the Louisville area and he held command of the final table during many of the late stages of play before succumbing to Leonard. He pocketed \$8,866 and 37.5 points toward the National Championship for his second-place finish.

"Pete is a hell of a player," Leonard said. "Very rarely do you see a player of that quality anywhere, especially [at] a smaller Circuit event. He's fearless."

Event 1 attracted a field of 184 players and enjoyed a slight attendance increase over last year's tournament. With the opening event off to a hot start, players and staff alike are looking ahead to this weekend's \$365 re-entry event and the series-closing \$1,675 Main Event – a tournament Leonard has experienced past success in.

While poker has and continues to be a hobby for him, Leonard is no stranger to deep runs and big scores. His WSOP resume got off to an enviable start in October of 2009 when he won a ring in a \$555 event and followed it up with a third-place finish in the \$5,150 Main Event just a few days later. Those scores combined for more than \$70,000 in earnings in a week's time and kick started the amateur's hobby.

“Poker really is more of a hobby of mine even though I’ve had some great successes,” Leonard said. “I enjoy the competition. I’ve met a lot of great people playing poker and that’s one of the reasons why I play it. I don’t do it for a means of income or anything like that. I’m impressed with the people that run the Circuit events. I’m [looking forward] to what the future holds.”

Leonard was a double major at Ohio State University where he studied accounting and finance. He’s originally from Columbus but now resides in Indianapolis, Ind. working as a contractor installing walk-in tubs for the elderly.

“I get great deal of satisfaction [helping the elderly],” Leonard said. “Poker is just a nice second hobby.”

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at HSI. The \$365 no-limit hold’em event attracted 184 players. The total prize pool came to \$55,201 and the top 21 finishers were paid.

Play began Thursday, October 2 at 12 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped toward the end of Level 18 at the nine-handed final table. Action resumed the following day at 2 p.m. and concluded at 6 p.m. making the total duration of the finale about four hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from HSI:

EVENT #1: David Leonard defeated 184 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,352

The player who accumulates the most overall points during HSI'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.

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