

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Hammond, Ind.

Event #11

No-Limit Hold'em

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 221

Prize Pool: \$110,500

October 26-27, 2014



Lee Rzentkowski Wins Hammond \$580 Event

Former online pro earns \$27,627 and his first gold ring. Bracelet winner Will Givens finishes third, pockets \$12,427.

Hammond, Ind. (October 27, 2014) — Lee Rzentkowski won Event 11 of the World Series of Poker Circuit at Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind. Monday night. The victory in the \$580 no-limit hold'em tournament came at the hands of a 221-player field and earned Rzentkowski \$27,627 along with his first Circuit gold ring.

“I’ve always thought I could do this,” the former online pro said. “I used to play a lot. Life got in the way and I stopped playing as much poker.”

Rzentkowski’s confidence and poker prowess comes from his time as an online pro. By his own account, he was without a traditional job for many years and paid his way through life on earnings from the virtual felt. Like many these days, Black Friday changed the course of his day-to-day routine and the 43-year-old Madison, Wisc. resident looked for work elsewhere.

“When I played online [...] six-man sit-and-gos were my bread and butter. I made a living for three years just playing six-man sit-and-gos,” Rzentkowski said. “Online poker went away and that kind of dried up some of my drive. The grind of playing live didn’t work with my family. I cut way back.”

With a wife and kids at home, Rzentkowski’s poker-related travel is limited to four or five tournament trips a year. The light schedule means he needs to make the most of the events he’s able to play and that’s just what he did Monday at the Horseshoe.

Beginning alongside Day 2 of the Main Event, Event 11 drew talents like bracelet winners Nick Jivkov and Will Givens. While Jivkov exited the tournament shy of the money, Givens played his way to a final table berth where he was joined by perennial Circuit cashers Rex Clinkscales and Dean Schultz.

Clinkscales (eighth, \$3,205) and Schultz (sixth, \$5,265) began the final playing session short and weren’t much of a factor late in the event. Givens, meanwhile, maneuvered his stack all the way to three-handed play before he looked down at ace-king and moved all in. Eventual runner-up Ellen Lambeth called for her tournament life with king-six and spiked a six on the flop. Givens

never improved and was left with just three big blinds. He exited the tournament third earning \$12,427.

“[Givens] was the guy I was always watching,” Rzentkowski said. “He was by far the craftiest player at the table so I was always aware of him. [Lambeth] played great. I had a really hard time getting a read on her. I knew she was making moves on me, but she was picking her spots really well. I had a really hard time playing back at her. It helps when you start getting some good hands. It makes playing back a lot easier.”

Rzentkowski is 43 years old and works as a finance manager at a car dealership. He resides in Madison, Wisc. with his wife and children. The Event 11 victory marks his third Circuit cash, second final table appearance and first gold ring.

Event 11 was the 11th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$580 no-limit hold'em event attracted 221 players. The total prize pool came to \$110,500 and the top 24 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Sunday, October 26 at 12 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped at the nine-handed final table. Day 2 began Monday at 2 p.m. and concluded at about 6 p.m. making the total duration of the finale four hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Hammond:

EVENT #1: Robert Hankins defeated 1,959 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$92,562
EVENT #2: John Peterson defeated 393 players (\$580 NLH) for \$42,122
EVENT #3: Nicola Ditrapani defeated 375 players (\$365 NLH) for \$24,748
EVENT #4: Sean Troha defeated 154 players (\$580 PLO) for \$20,789
EVENT #5: James Hull defeated 366 players (\$365 NLH) for \$24,161
EVENT #6: Ari Engel defeated 128 players (\$580 HORSE) for \$17,921
EVENT #7: Ron Slucker defeated 292 players (\$580 NLH Six-Handed) \$37,960
EVENT #8: Sean Troha defeated 190 players (\$1,125 NLH) for \$49,401
EVENT #9: David Mirshak defeated 187 players (\$365 O8) for \$14,586
THE MAIN EVENT: Rob Coventry defeated 1,147 entries (\$1,675 NLH) for \$313,993
EVENT #11: Lee Rzentkowski defeated 221 players (\$580 NLH) for \$27,627
EVENT #12: Ronnie Rogers defeated 199 players (\$365 Turbo NLH) for \$15,520

Sean Troha earned Casino Champion honors following five cashes; two gold ring victories, a 17th-place finish in the last-chance turbo, a 70th-place finish in the Main Event and a 129th-place finish in the re-entry opener totaling 110 points. He's set to join the Horseshoe Hammond Main Event champion at the National Championship this spring. There, they'll play for their share of an up-to \$2 million prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cashed 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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