

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Harrah's Cherokee

Cherokee, N.C.

Event #10

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 797

Prize Pool: \$1,195,500

December 5-8, 2014



Jake Bazeley Wins Harrah's Cherokee Main Event and \$293K

Cincinnati pro scores his first gold ring and a berth in the season-ending National Championship.

Cherokee, N.C. (December 8, 2014) – Jake Bazeley broke through for his first WSOP-related victory Monday night in the World Series of Poker Circuit Main Event at Harrah's Cherokee in Cherokee, N.C. Bazeley, a 31-year-old professional poker player from Cincinnati, earned \$239,096, a Circuit gold ring and a berth in the season-ending National Championship following the hard-fought win.

Despite laying claim to nearly \$2 million in tournament earnings, Bazeley owned just two career victories prior to Monday night. While his resume boasts runner-up finishes in both a \$1,500 bracelet event and a Circuit Main Event, Bazeley hadn't broken through on the WSOP stage until he made the journey south to Cherokee. With those close calls in his rearview mirror, Bazeley put all his confidence in his solid play and left the rest up to the cards.

"I never really go by leaderboards and points and stuff like that," Bazeley said. "I'm just more about making money and at the same time having fun and being competitive with it. Winning is winning. I don't really do it to get points or a ring or anything. I just want to win."

Bazeley began the third and final day of play in the Cherokee finale second of 12 remaining players and well within reach of an elusive title. Play moved fast to start and the field narrowed to the official nine-handed final table in less than an hour. Early on, Bazeley, who remained second in chips at the time, looked down at aces and after a few rounds of betting, saw chip leader Hai Le six-bet shove jacks into him. Bazeley snap called and earned a pot worth nearly 7,000,000 chips — almost half those in play. Bazeley retained his sizable lead all the way to three-handed play and looked down at pocket kings. Again his opponent did the betting for him when Caleb Brown moved all in and again Bazeley snap called. Brown held queens and never improved. From there, Bazeley went into heads up play against Chad DeBerry with about a 3-to-1 advantage and the rest was history.

“I just had some hands in fortunate spots where people just weren’t folding to me,” Bazeley said of his good fortune. “I got very lucky to wake up with some hands in the right situations.”

One player who didn’t share in Bazeley’s good fortune was fellow tournament pro Darryll Fish. Fish who also lays claim to nearly \$2 million in career earnings, moved all in holding **A♥K♥** on an **A♦K♦3♣4♣** board. His opponent, Le, called and instantly tabled **K♠K♣** for a set. Fish never improved and with that, Bazeley’s most feared foe hit the rail shy of the final table.

“It hasn’t even set in yet,” Bazeley said of the win. “I’ve been working so hard to get a win and been so close. Poker, you can get close and you still get paid well, but you don’t get that fully satisfied feeling until you win. Hopefully when this sets in I’ll feel like I’ve accomplished what I wanted to.”

Bazeley made the trip to Cherokee with close friends Fish, Jared Jaffee and the Massey brothers Aaron and Ralph. Together, the quintet accounted for four in-the-money finishes and more than \$263,000 in earnings in the championship event alone. After his victory, Bazeley gave a nod to those who helped him along the road to the winner’s circle.

“That just makes these tournaments so much better,” Bazeley said of sharing the victory with friends. “They’re very long days. When you’ve got someone else to enjoy the ups and downs of poker with you it just makes it so much better.”

Bazeley’s life wasn’t always about poker. While a senior in high school, his basketball team qualified for the state championship game and he ended up being offered a Division II college scholarship. He logged four years playing for Christian Brothers University in Memphis and two years coaching there. During his playing years, he and his teammates would often be confined to their rooms on game nights. To pass the time, they’d play poker and this marked Bazeley’s introduction to the game.

“We’d have a lot of nights where we weren’t allowed to go out partying because we had games and we’d just sit around and play cards,” Bazeley said. “Eventually you just meet more and more poker friends and get into different games and different formats.”

The Main Event marked the last of the ring events on the Harrah’s Cherokee schedule. The \$1,675 finale drew 797 entries — nearly 20 percent more than last year — creating a \$1,195,500 prize pool. The early stages of play were headlined by 2004 WSOP Main Event champion Greg Raymer, this year’s APAC Main Event champion Scott Davies and three-time Super Bowl champion Richard Seymour. Seymour and Raymer took two shots at it, but ultimately came up dry of an in-the-money finish. Davies, meanwhile, capped off a hot year with a 33rd place finish and \$5,475 score. Others to finish in the money included David Nicholson (77th, \$2,977), Ralph Massey (71st, \$3,240), Jaffee (69th, \$3,240), Brian Reinert (54th, \$3,873), Nicholas Palma (52nd, (\$3,873), Tyler Morris (32nd, \$5,475), Viet Vo (24th, \$8,536), Kyle Cartwright (21st, \$10,126) and Fish (11th, \$18,148).

“Harrah’s Cherokee is my favorite Circuit stop of the year,” Bazeley said of the North Carolina property. “The fields are massive and everyone here is having a good time. They’re really nice and treat you well.”

With Bazeley's victory comes the conclusion of the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit series (the first of two on the schedule this year), but WSOP action starts up again this Thursday at Harrah's Atlantic City. [More on that series is available on WSOP.com.](http://www.wsop.com)

The Main Event was the tenth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harveys Lake Tahoe. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 797 entries. The total prize pool came to \$1,195,500 and the top 81 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, December 5 at 12 p.m. and Saturday, December 6 at 12 p.m. Flight A drew 319 entries and advanced 61 while Flight B attracted 478 and advanced 93.

Play restarted Sunday at 12 p.m. with 154 players. Day 2 wrapped up at about 12:15 a.m. with 12 players remaining.

Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. and concluded at about 6:50 in Level 30

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

Action began with 35 minutes left in Level 26 – 15,000/30,000 with a 5,000 ante

Seat 1: Raymond "Trey" Walton - 420,000 (14 BBs)

Seat 2: Corey Bierria - 1,135,000 (37 BBs)

Seat 3: Jacob Bazeley - 3,400,000 (113,000 BBs)

Seat 4: Daniel Gilmer - 1,850,000 (61 BBs)

Seat 5: Mark Dumonski - 375,000 (12 BBs)

Seat 6: Hai Le - 3,715,000 (123 BBs)

Seat 7: Chad DeBerry - 2,850,000 (95 BBs)

Seat 8: Ray Kazerouni - 650,000 (21 BBs)

Seat 9: Caleb Brown - 1,110,000 (37 BBs)

About the Final Table:

1st: Jake Bazeley - \$239,096

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Age: 31

Occupation: Professional Poker Player

Circuit Earnings: \$231,990

2nd: Chad DeBerry - \$147,405

Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla.

Age: 27

Occupation: Professional Poker Player

Circuit Earnings: \$3,626

3rd: Caleb Brown - \$108,671
Hometown: Duluth, Ga.
Age: 25
Occupation: Professional Poker Player
Circuit Earnings: \$0

4th: Raymond "Trey" Walton - \$80,995
Hometown: Cartersville, Ga.
Age: 32
Occupation: Real Estate Appraiser
Circuit Earnings: \$35,511

5th: Daniel Gilmer - \$61,174
Hometown: Columbus, Ohio
Age: 26
Circuit Earnings: \$73,429

6th: Ray Kazerouni - \$46,804
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Age: 52
Occupation: Hair Stylist
Circuit Earnings: \$3,074

7th: Hai Le - \$36,260
Hometown: Wake Forest, N.C.
Age: 50
Occupation: Engineer
Circuit Earnings: \$694

8th: Corey Bierria - \$28,441
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Age: 38
Occupation: Business Owner
Circuit Earnings: \$507,713

9th: Mark Dumonski - \$22,583
Hometown: Summerfield, N.C.
Age: 38
Occupation: Spine Surgeon
Circuit Earnings: \$671

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Cherokee:

EVENT #1: Karthik Ramakrishnan defeated 1,930 players (\$365 NLHE Re-entry) for \$91,166
EVENT #2: Nhat Truong defeated 183 players (\$365 PLO) for \$14,275
EVENT #3: Jonathan Abila defeated 404 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$26,660
EVENT #4: Steven Snyder defeated 381 players (\$365 NLHE 6 Max) for \$27,430
EVENT #5: Raymond "Trey" Walton defeated 323 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$22,773
EVENT #6: Michael Bramlett defeated 398 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$26,275

EVENT #7: Jim Kier defeated 480 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$30,962
EVENT #8: Aaron Frei defeated 350 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$40,242
EVENT #9: Scott Davies defeated 353 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$24,355
MAIN EVENT: Jake Bazeley defeated 797 players (\$1,675 NLHE) for \$239,096
EVENT #11: Cody Pack defeated 305 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$21,504
EVENT #12: Sam Scheidecker defeated 274 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$19,730

Trey Walton earned the Casino Champion honors following two cashes, two final tables and one gold ring performance totaling 90 points. He's set to join the Harrah's Cherokee 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 cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 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 World Series of Poker Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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