

**2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 11
Horseshoe Baltimore
Baltimore, Md.
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 392
Prize Pool: \$117,600
Feb. 26-27, 2015**



Damion Norton Wins the Opening Event in Baltimore

Damion Norton wins the first ever WSOP Circuit gold ring event hosted by the Horseshoe Baltimore.

Baltimore, Md. (February 27, 2015) -- The first ever WSOP Circuit gold ring awarded by the Horseshoe Baltimore property goes to Damion Norton. Norton earned the gold ring by defeating a field of 392 players over the course of two days in Event #1 – \$365 No-Limit Hold'em. He is now the only player ever to win a WSOP event in the state of Maryland. Eleven more players will join Norton in the Maryland WSOP winner circle over the course of the rest of the series.

The unique thing about Norton's story is that he helped build this casino. Before becoming a professional poker player, Norton worked in construction management. He was involved in the construction of this casino. It was fitting that somebody who helped build the property has taken its first gold ring.

"It means a lot because I was actually on a construction management team that was building this property," said Norton about winning the Horseshoe Baltimore's first ever gold ring.

The 29-year-old left his construction management job about one year ago to pursue poker as full time profession. According to Norton he began playing poker professionally February 20, 2014, which would make this win exactly one year and one week after turning pro.

Norton finished as the Day 1 chip leader. Day 2 began at the unofficial final table with 10 players remaining and Norton in the lead. He held onto the chip lead the majority of the day. By the time things got heads-up between him and Dennis Tsai, the chips were nearly even. It did not take long for Norton to retake his advantage though. Shortly into heads up play, Norton five-bet all-in preflop and was called by Tsai. Norton's pocket jacks managed to hold up against Tsai's pocket eights. Norton left Tsai crippled and knocked him out just a few hands later to become the first gold ring winner of the series.

Norton won with the help of a supportive rail. He had many fans and friends cheering him on throughout the final table. Norton said that his number one supporter is his wife.

Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Horseshoe Baltimore in Baltimore, Maryland. It was also the first gold ring event ever held at the property. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 392 players generating a \$117,600 prize pool. The top 45 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at noon and lasted 21 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with 10 players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 6:30 p.m. at the beginning of Level 27.

Notes on the event:

- This was the first ever WSOP Circuit event at the Horseshoe Baltimore
- This was Norton's first ever WSOP cash. It was also runner-up finisher, Dennis Tsai's, first ever WSOP cash.
- Norton is from Owings Mill, Maryland and this is his home casino.
- Norton is originally from Detroit, Michigan

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Horseshoe Baltimore's twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

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.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Palm Beach Kennel Club:

EVENT #1: Damion Norton defeated 392 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$25,867

With the first tournament wrapped up, 11 more ring events remain at the Horseshoe Baltimore series.

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.

For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at ijhanson13@gmail.com.