

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, Okla.

Event #2

Pot-Limit Omaha

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

Total Entries: 197

Prize Pool: \$59,100

January 8-9, 2015



Mark Fisher Cards Unlikely PLO Victory

Dennison, Tex. resident overcomes nearly 20-to-1 chip disadvantage, bests Jesse McVicker to the tune of \$15,366 and a second gold ring.

Durant, Okla. (January 9, 2015) — Mark Fisher earned his second career World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring Friday night at Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla. The 40-year-old Dennison, Tex. resident bested 197 players in Event 2, a \$365 pot-limit Omaha tournament, to earn \$15,366 along with 50 points the Casino Championship and, of course, a follow-up gold ring.

Fisher laid claim to his first Circuit victory earlier this season at Horseshoe Casino in Elizabeth, Ind. He came to the Event 2 final table at Choctaw with a newfound confidence, but tough test laid ahead of him as he faced off against bracelet winner Jordan Smith and a handful of other fellow gold ring winners.

Smith turned out to be a non-factor, finishing seventh, and Fisher eventually rode his confidence all the way to a heads-up berth against another hometown hero, Jesse McVicker. Fisher began the duel with a slight chip lead but doubled McVicker on the first hand of heads-up to play to suddenly get crippled. Holding 100,000 chips to McVicker's 1,870,000, Fisher's dreams of gold were crushed.

But as McVicker's rail grew, so too did Fisher's stack. Fisher doubled up four times in a row and eventually shoved for his last 280,000 after McVicker checked the river on an [Ad][9h][3h][Jc][As] board. McVicker called and Fisher tabled [Ac][3c][4s][4h] for a fullhouse. The pot propelled Fisher back into the chip lead and set him up to deliver a crushing blow to his opponent a few hands later.

McVicker, now shortstacked, checked the river again on a board of [As][Ks][2h][Qs][8s]. Fisher bet out 300,000 and McVicker reluctantly called.

"Royal flush," an inexplicably hot-handed Fisher said tabling [Js][Ts][Jd][7c].

Sure enough, it was a royal flush. The pot flipped the stacks completely from a few minutes prior and left McVicker with just over 100,000 chips and Fisher holding the commanding lead. From there, it took only a few hands for Fisher to bust McVicker and claim his second gold ring.

“It feels awesome,” Fisher said. “I was trying to [get more rings than] my buddy [Justin Krueger]. This is my home area so it’s nice to win a ring here. That’s two for the season.”

Fisher, a funeral home director, now claims two cashes during the 2014/2015 Circuit tour, both in the form of gold ring victories. His previous win came at the hands of a slightly smaller 186-player field in a \$365 no-limit hold’em tournament at Horseshoe Casino in Elizabeth, Ind.

“I love it,” Fisher said of the Choctaw Circuit series. “It’s huge. I’ve been to quite a few [other stops]. It’s such a big turnout here. It’s just crazy. I love Choctaw. Of course, I’m only 20 minutes away [from home], so that makes it good.”

Fisher’s WSOP resume now boasts nine Circuit cashes totaling more than \$40,000 in earnings. He is a father of four.

Event 2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 pot-limit Omaha event attracted 197 players. The total prize pool came to \$59,100 and the top 21 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Thursday, January 8 at 5 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 17. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. with 12 players remaining. Play narrowed to the nine-handed final table by 2:30 p.m. Action concluded shortly before 10 p.m. making the total duration of the finale seven and a half hours including a one-hour dinner break.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Choctaw Casino Resort:

EVENT #1: Thomas Johnson defeated 990 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$56,427

EVENT #2: Mark Fisher defeated 197 players (\$365 PLO) for \$15,366

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Choctaw Casino Resort’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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