

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, Okla.

Event #4

One-Day No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 402

Prize Pool: \$120,600

January 11, 2015



Kevin McColgan Wins Fourth Ring at Choctaw

Pennsylvania pro spends his time off the felt helping local youth diagnosed with cancer.

Durant, Okla. (January 12, 2015) — Kevin McColgan earned his fourth career gold ring shortly after midnight Monday at Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla. The victory, which came in Event 4 of the property's WSOP Circuit series (a \$365 one-day no-limit hold'em tournament), earned McColgan \$26,533 and catapulted him into a tie for fourth on the all-time Circuit wins list.

"It never gets old," McColgan said of winning. "You just play to win and you don't win very often in poker."

McColgan has become a staple on the Circuit dating back to his first cash at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas in 2008. In the time since, he's recorded 30 additional in-the-money finishes including four gold ring victories and numerous final table appearances accounting for more than \$300,000 in earnings. The 36-year-old professional poker player from Pennsylvania admits he hasn't done it by himself though, and he went on to tip his cap to his coach, mentor and friend, seven-time ring winner Ari Engel.

"I'm just trying to catch up to my buddy [Engel]," McColgan laughed. "He has taught me a ton. He talks me through downswings and gives me support. He's a genius in my mind."

Despite a resume that would make even the Circuit's most accomplished players blush, McColgan admits his true passion lies off the felt with an annual benefit he organizes along with his wife and family members. The Red Corner Benefit, which takes place each fall in his hometown, assists local children diagnosed with cancer, and for McColgan, it's become much more than just a get-together.

"It's literally the only thing I really, really care about," McColgan said of the Red Corner Benefit. "Poker is great. I want to do well in poker, but my passion lies in this benefit that we do."

Impressively, it's coming up on its seventh anniversary. By McColgan's account, 2014's event saw 1,400 people make their way to his 16-acre property for an all-day festival that included live music, food and a professional fireworks show donated by the same company that works with the Philadelphia Phillies.

“It’s a real big passion of ours,” McColgan said. “It’s become so huge in our community with our friends and family and everything. Just getting to know the families of the kids, they become really good friends of ours. We consider these people really close, really important people in our lives.”

McColgan got his start helping local youth after he and his wife moved back to Pennsylvania from Los Angeles in 2009. While living on the West Coast, McColgan, a Neil Young fan, began attending Young’s benefit – the Bridge School Benefit – each year with his wife and some of his closest friends. They made it a tradition and it was a big part of what they looked forward to year in and year out. After moving back home, the pair brainstormed ways to keep the tradition going, and with that, the Red Corner Benefit was born.

“I love to talk about it,” McColgan said. “We all do it together. I couldn’t do it by myself.”

McColgan’s life on the felt might be measured by how many rings he’s won or the size of his most recent cash, but off the felt, where his true passion lies, no one keeps score and no one loses. It’s simply him, his wife and his family that grows each year with every child they help and love like their own.

Event 4 was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 one-day no-limit hold’em event attracted 402 players. The total prize pool came to \$120,600 and the top 45 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Sunday, January 11 at 12 p.m. Play narrowed to the nine-handed final table by 10:45 p.m. Action concluded shortly after midnight making the total duration of the finale one hour and 15 minutes and the total duration of the event 12 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

EVENT #3: TBD

EVENT #4: Kevin McColgan defeated 402 players (\$365 One-Day NLH) for \$26,533

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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