

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, Okla.

Event #8

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 281

Prize Pool: \$84,300

January 13-14, 2015



Steve Moore Earns First Gold Ring

Perennial Circuit final tablist Austin Buchanan comes up short in his 32nd career cash.

Ben Reason finishes fourth, takes Casino Championship lead through eight events.

Durant, Okla. (January 14, 2015) — Steve Moore of Portland, Ore. defeated 281 players in Event 8, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament, Wednesday evening to earn his first gold ring along with \$20,233 and 50 points toward the Casino Championship. Moore, a previous resident of Austin, Tex., used a trip home to visit friends as an excuse to make the drive north to Durant and pay a visit to the World Series of Poker Circuit.

“I like to fly to Austin to hang out with my buddies for a couple days then drive up here for the Circuit,” Moore said.

Admittedly less experienced than many of his final table foes, Moore came out on top in a finale that included now-32-time Circuit casher Austin Buchanan and two-time ring winner Ben Reason. Buchanan came to the final playing session as the chip leader, but lost a good chunk of his stack to Moore in what turned out to be one of the most important pots of the tournament.

The board read [Th][8s][5c][Jh] and Moore moved all in sending the action to Buchanan. Buchanan quickly called and Moore was at risk. Buchanan tabled pocket fives for a flopped set and Moore was caught with the worst of it holding pocket sixes. Despite Buchanan's advantage, Moore headed to the river with an open-ended straight draw and outs to a better set.

The river drowned Buchanan's set, falling the [7s] and improving Moore to a straight. The pot left Buchanan with roughly 10 big blinds and he exited the tournament fifth for \$5,020 a few hands later. Buchanan, a Florida pro, now lays claim to 32 Circuit cashes and 12 final table appearances without a ring.

Next to go was the Event 5 ring winner and now-Casino Championship leader Ben Reason. He busted fourth good for 27.5 points toward the 12-tournament race to the National Championship. He claims a 27.5-point cushion over the seven-way tie for second with four points-eligible events left to be decided.

“Pretty much all the players at the final table had me outmatched,” Moore admitted after the tournament. “I ran really well. I just played my best and got lucky in a couple spots.”

Moore is 28 years old and resides in Portland, Ore. where he works in real estate. His Circuit resume comes complete with three cashes including a 94th-place finish in last year's Choctaw Main Event, and of course, a gold ring victory.

"It's kind of surreal," he said. "I've always wanted to win a ring and now that I have I can't believe it. It hasn't really set in yet. The money – I definitely need the money – but the ring is probably just as special."

Event 8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 281 players. The total prize pool came to \$84,300 and the top 30 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Tuesday, January 13 at 12 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped at the conclusion of Level 21 with seven players remaining. Day 2 began Wednesday at 2 p.m. and came to a close just after 5 p.m. making the total duration of the final table about four hours over the course of two days.

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: Ray Henson defeated 4,053 entries (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$197,588
EVENT #4: Kevin McColgan defeated 402 players (\$365 One-Day NLH) for \$26,533
EVENT #5: Ben Reason defeated 281 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,233
EVENT #6: Stewart Yancik defeated 379 players (\$365 Six-Handed NLH) for \$27,281
EVENT #7: Johnny Donnelly defeated 241 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,711
EVENT #8: Steve Moore defeated 281 players (\$365 NLH) for \$20,233

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.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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