

## **2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 11**

**Choctaw Casino Resort**

**Durant, Okla.**

**Event #9**

**No-Limit Hold'em**

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

**Total Entries: 225**

**Prize Pool: \$67,500**

**January 13-14, 2015**



## **Danny Watkins Becomes a Ring Winner**

**Waco amateur outlasts Tim West, Chris Bibb and Paul Sokoloff to earn \$16,877.**

**Durant, Okla. (January 14, 2015)** — Danny Watkins came out on top against the likes of Tim West, Chris Bibb and Paul Sokoloff at the Event 9 final table Wednesday night at Choctaw Casino Resort. Watkins pocketed \$16,877 in prize money along with a World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship for his victory in the \$365 event.

“It’s an accomplishment,” Watkins said of the win. “It’s something I’m going to be proud of forever. Nobody can take it away.”

Watkins’ accomplishment came at the cost of denying talents such as the aforementioned West, Bibb and Sokoloff additional content for their resumes. West owns two Circuit rings and more than \$830,000 in career earnings at the WSOP while Sokoloff, also a ring winner, claims nearly \$575,000 in earnings. Bibb has no WSOP trophies but parlayed a Casino Championship title into a fourth-place finish in the season-ending National Championship and a \$115,655 score just last May.

“No one really scared me,” Watkins said of his opponents. “It was a decent table. There were several strong players but no one overly aggressive.”

Play moved slow to start and eventually the stacks got shallow. West, Bibb and Sokoloff turned out to be non-factors hitting the rail in succession – Bibb seventh, Sokoloff sixth and West fourth. The trio was relegated to the rail while Watkins finished the job defeating Harold McDonald heads up.

Watkins is 37 years old and resides in Waco, Tex. He owns a manufacturing business and works part time for another company that produces lifts for construction and utility workers. His Event 9 victory marks his sixth Circuit cash and second final table appearance – all at Choctaw.

Joining him in the money were Stephen Hesse (20th) and John Land (15th).

Event 9 was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 225 players. The total prize pool came to \$67,500 and the top 24 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Tuesday, January 13 at 5 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 15. Day 2 began Wednesday at 2 p.m. with 33 players remaining and the top 24 finishing in the money. The bubble burst after a few levels of play and the nine-handed final table was reached by 6 p.m. Action concluded at 11:45 p.m. making the total duration of the finale five hours and forty five minutes 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: 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  
EVENT #9: Danny Watkins defeated 225 players (\$365 NLH) for \$16,877

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](http://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](http://WSOP.com).

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