

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Choctaw Casino Resort

Durant, Okla.

Event #11

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 1,363

Prize Pool: \$2,044,500

January 16-19, 2015



Jose Montes Wins Choctaw Main Event and \$352K

New York-based pro outlasts 1,363 entries in the season's largest Main Event.

Durant, Okla. (January 19, 2015) - Jose Montes navigated through a field of 1,363 players to win the largest Circuit Main Event of the 2014-15 campaign. Montes takes home \$352,669 for his first place finish in the Choctaw Durant Main Event. Along with the top prize, Montes secures a berth to this year's National Championship.

This marks the New York native's fourth ever WSOP cash and first gold ring. While the cash and the ring are satisfying, it was not an easy ride for the 29-year-old poker professional. With the large field and massive first place prize, there were plenty of Circuit grinders and other top pros who came to take their shot at Circuit glory. Montes battled at the final table with two-time ring winner Ben Reason, ring winner Ryan Tepen and defeated ring winner Ben Keeline heads-up for a ring of his own.

The gold ring that comes along with the victory is something Montes was especially excited about.

"I can show my son one day," said Montes about the gold ring. "Look at what dad won."

Montes has an 11-month-old boy at home who shares the same birthday as Montes. He also has another boy on the way. He has been looking at homes for his family for the past few months. According to Montes, part of his prize money will go toward buying his family a new home.

Montes' road to victory was well deserved. While he found his fair share of luck, Montes wielded his big stack like a true pro. He entered the final table as the chip leader and used his stack to continue to collect chips throughout the day. He was aggressive three-betting throughout the entire day and was one of the more active players at the table.

Montes' aggressiveness got him into a tough spot with four players remaining. He opened the pot and then called a three-bet against Nancy Nguyen. Montes check raised all-in on a 10-9-8 board with A-7 suited and was called by Nguyen holding Q-Q. A 6 landed on the river giving Montes a straight and one of the biggest pots of the day. Nguyen was eliminated and Montes took that momentum to victory.

"Tournament poker is so tough. You get so close and it hurts when you lose. Still winning money and it still hurts. You want to win. I am a competitor; competitors want to win every time.

I want to play every time and I never want to bust out. I want to win every time.”

Montes is a regular at tournaments on the East Coast, and this wasn't an event he planned on playing. He decided last minute to make the trip to Oklahoma with a friend and they flew out of Atlantic City at 7 a.m. They landed in Oklahoma a few hours later and bought into Day 1A without much rest.

Montes finished Day 2 in the middle of the pack with regards to chips, finishing in seventh out of 16 players. He was guaranteed to earn at least \$18,953 at that point and the pay jumps were starting to get big. He had no intention of worrying about the pay jumps though. He was playing for the gold ring.

“Don't think about money, and play as good as I could,” said Montes about his mentality coming into the final day of play.

That mentality worked out great for Montes. It helped him play aggressively, fearless and for the win. It is ultimately what lead him to victory in one of the toughest Circuit tournaments of the season.

The Main Event was the eleventh of twelve events on the Choctaw Durant schedule. The \$1,675 No Limit Hold'em tournament created a massive prize pool of \$2,044,500. As expected, this tournament drew some of the top players in the game. TJ Cloutier, 2013 November Niner David Benefield, Jose Serratos, Maurice Hawkins, 1996 WSOP Main Event runner-up Bruce Van Horn and Nipun Java all earned cashes of varying degrees.

Cloutier, a six-time bracelet winner, was coming off of a runner-up finish for \$122,040 in the largest tournament in Circuit history, a \$365 No Limit Hold'em with 4,053 runners. He lost heads-up to Ray Henson, who also fired two bullets in the Main Event.

Other notables who played the event included Kevin Eyster, 2005 WSOP Main Event third place finisher Tex Barch, David “ODB” Baker, and Bracelet winner Bryan Campanello.

With Montes' victory comes the conclusion of the Choctaw Durant Circuit series. The WSOP Circuit will continue at Horseshoe Tunica starting Thursday.

The Main Event was the 11th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Choctaw Casino Resort. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 1,363 entries. The total prize pool came to \$2,044,500 and the top 153 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, January 16 at 12 p.m. and Saturday, January 17 at 12 p.m. Flight A boasted 561 entries and advanced 110 while Flight B drew 802 and advanced 169.

Play restarted Sunday at 12 p.m. with 279 players. The money bubble burst midway through Level 18 (shortly before 3 p.m.) and play wrapped at 2 a.m. with 16 players remaining.

Day 3 began Monday at 12 p.m. and narrowed to the nine-handed final table just before 3:30 p.m. Play concluded at 10:45 p.m. making the total duration of the finale seven hours and fifteen minutes including a 45-minute dinner break.

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

Action began with 50 minutes left in the 30,000/60,000 with a 10,000 ante level (Level 29)

Seat 1: Alex Greenblatt – 1,165,000
Seat 2: Benjamin Keeline – 2,000,000
Seat 3: Ryan Tepen – 1,745,000
Seat 4: Doug Fusella – 1,840,000
Seat 5: Marc Maxey – 5,610,000
Seat 6: Mohammad Abedi – 1,800,000
Seat 7: Jose Montes – 5,920,0000
Seat 8: Benjamin Reason – 4,625,000
Seat 9: Nancy Nguyen – 2,825,000

About the final table:

1st: Jose Ivan Montes - \$352,669
Hometown: Bronx, N.Y.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$6,405

2nd: Benjamin Keeline - \$218,762
Hometown: Oswego, Ill.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$25,756
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$92,305

3rd: Doug Fusella - \$160,309
Hometown: Dallas, Tex.
Occupation: Executive
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

4th: Nancy Nguyen - \$121,873
Hometown: Denton, Tex.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$849

5th: Marc Maxey - \$92,779
Hometown: Prosper, Tex.
Occupation: Marketing
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$946

6th: Ben Reason - \$71,455
Hometown: Tyler, Tex.
Occupation: Professional poker player/coach
WSOP earnings: \$216,896
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$128,438

7th: Mohammad Abedi-Arani - \$55,672
Hometown: Dallas, Tex.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$92,832
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$46,663

8th: Alexander Greenblatt - \$43,875
Hometown: Atherton, Calif.
WSOP earnings: \$9,439
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$53,512

9th: Ryan Tepen - \$34,981
Hometown: Bowling Green, Mo.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$160,065
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$87,640

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
EVENT #10: Bret Zorich defeated 314 players (\$580 One-day NLH) for \$36,899
EVENT #11 (Main Event): Jose Montes defeated 1,363 entries (\$1,675 NLH) for \$352,669
EVENT #12: Tzu Yen defeated 345 players (\$365 NLH) for \$23,806

Ben Reason earned Casino Champion honors following up first, fourth and 128th-place finishes in preliminary events with a sixth-place finish in the Main Event. In all, Reason carded 117.5 points and lapped the field in the 12-tournament race to the National Championship. He's set to join the Choctaw Main Event champion at a yet-to-be determined location for the season-ending event. There, they'll compete for an up-to \$2,000,000 prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cashed in ring events received 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.

For additional information please contact:

Lukas M. Willems (WSOP Media Coordinator) at lukasmwillems@gmail.com.