

## 2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Lumiere Place Casino and Hotels

St. Louis, Mo.

Event #2

No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry

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

Total Entries: 792

Prize Pool: \$237,600

February 20-23, 2015



## Mario Webster Wins Lumiere Re-Entry Event

**St. Louis R.N. completes what he calls step one in his poker career, outlasts 792 players to earn his first gold ring along with \$47,520.**

**St. Louis, Mo. (February 23, 2015)** — Following four grueling days of poker, Mario Webster of St. Louis, Mo. has laid claim to his first World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring. The victory, which came in Event 2 of the Lumiere Place series, a \$365 re-entry tournament, earns Webster \$47,520 along with 50 points toward the Casino Championship. The opening weekend headliner of the 12-day series, Event 2 drew an impressive field of nearly 800 players each of whom ponied up the \$365 buy in for a shot at Circuit gold. In the end, only one could go home a champion.

“This is, I don’t know, fate or something,” Webster said following the victory. “I just knew I could win one of these puppies. I’ve played the [WSOP Circuit] for about, I don’t know, four years [...] I’m excited. I’m proud of myself.”

To accommodate the sizable field, an unscheduled fourth day of play was added to complete the tournament. The final session began with four players remaining and Webster leading the action. That changed quickly, though, as Ryan Bailey busted Edmund MacMurray fourth and two-time ring winner William Byrnes third in near back-to-back hands. Bailey then held a slight advantage over Webster, but not for long.

The pair played a big pot right off the bat getting it all in, Bailey holding the advantage with pocket tens over Webster’s pocket fours.

“He had a good hand. There was really nothing you could do,” Webster recalled. “Heads up, I got a pocket pair. He had to do what he had to do, I had to do what I had to do with pocket pairs. Nobody in this room would have done anything differently.”

The dealer burned and turned a flop that improved Webster to a set and suddenly gave him a commanding lead in the hand. The turn and river completed blanks and Bailey’s tens were second best to Webster’s three fours. Bailey was left with less than 1,000,000 chips and was eliminated on the very next hand.

“It’s just that luck came my way,” Webster said. “[The dealer] put that four out there on the flop and let me get it.”

Webster is 41 years old and works as a registered nurse. While his job comes first, poker can be considered a very serious hobby and the victory marks the first in a long list of accomplishments the dedicated amateur hopes to add to his resume in the coming years.

“This is step one in my goals,” he said. “My next goal to attain is to get in that [Circuit] Main Event and see if I can snap off that. Once I get that, it’s time to go maybe get one of those big [tournaments] in Las Vegas. After that, who knows? Everything is baby steps. You can’t just have it all at once.”

For Webster, poker is more than just a game he plays on the weekends. It serves as training of sorts for what really matters – the patients and families he cares for as an R.N. While his job brings an unbelievable amount of fulfillment, it’s not without its drawbacks.

“With me, I deal with a lot of death and family members that are in despair,” Webster said of his work. “Poker in itself allows me to be able to keep a straight face and communicate with these people. It’s almost like having a poker face even when you work. To be able to communicate with these family members even though on the inside you’re ready to tear up or well up a little bit. You feel for them and their pain and suffering, but you have to be that rock for them and be the professional so they know what’s going on.”

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Event 2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Lumiere Place. The \$365 no-limit hold’em re-entry event attracted 792 entries. The total prize pool came to \$237,600 and the top 81 finishers were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning at noon Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21. Friday’s flight drew 314 entries and advanced 46 while Saturday’s flight drew 478 and advanced 70.

Day 2 began Sunday at 2 p.m. with 116 players remaining and just the top 81 finishing in the money. The bubble burst shortly before 3:30 p.m. (toward the end of Level 16) and from there, play narrowed to the nine-handed final table by 10 p.m. Day 2 wrapped following Level 27 at roughly 2 a.m.

Day 3 began Monday at 2 p.m. with four players remaining. Action concluded at 2:45 p.m. making the total duration of the finale just under five hours over the course of two days.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Lumiere Place:

EVENT #1: Eric Montgomery defeated 234 players (\$365 NLH) for \$17,551  
EVENT #2: Mario Webster defeated 792 entries (\$365 NLH re-entry) for \$47,520  
EVENT #3: Nicholas Pupillo defeated 104 players (\$580 NLH) for \$15,600

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Lumiere Place’s 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 60 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](#) or check out [WSOP.com](#).

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