

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Lumiere Place Casino and Hotels

St. Louis, Mo.

Event #9

The Main Event

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

Total Entries: 415

Prize Pool: \$622,500

February 27-March 2, 2015



Josh Turner Wins Circuit Main Event in St. Louis

Turner earns \$136,945 and his second ring of the season in his hometown.

St. Louis (March 2, 2015) – For the past three days, Josh Turner has seemed destined to wind up in the winner’s circle. He won the Main Event at the World Series of Poker Circuit at Lumiere Place in St. Louis, going wire-to-wire and sitting atop the leaderboard at the end of every day of competition.

A St. Louis local, it only seems appropriate for Turner’s season to reach its apex here in his hometown. Turner has been on fire this entire season, and his victory today marks his 11th cash, his seventh final table, and his second ring. Despite his mountain of accomplishments over the past few months, this is his biggest achievement to date. It’s his first deep run in a Circuit Main Event, and the \$136,945 he earned for his victory represents the biggest live cash of his burgeoning poker career (his previous highest cash was less than half that amount).

Turner was in the driver seat for virtually the entire tournament. He finished Day 1A (Friday) with 400,500 in chips, and the second-place player had only 261,000. After Day 2, there were only 9 players left. Turner again ended the day with the lead, carrying 2,129,000 in chips into the final table. Second place was John Longowa, who had 1,676,000. While a few other players built up their stacks on the final day, Turner never relinquished his lead.

After the event, Turner had a hard time containing his excitement, and echoed the idea the he seemed fated to win in his home city. “This is awesome. It’s hard to even talk,” he said after securing his win. “I would need to win a [WSOP] bracelet to feel I accomplished something bigger than this. I would never want to win a ring anywhere else but here. For it to be the Main Event, it’s even more important. It was cool because I didn’t even sleep the night before [Day 1A]. I actually played all Day 1 on no sleep so I was a little out of it, then just went wire-to-wire. I felt great. I felt like it was my tournament, I really did. I felt destined I was going to win it. My family thought I was going to win it. I even told my two nieces this morning that we’re going to Disney World.”

Turner plans to use his victory and the prize money to help propel him to the next stage of his poker career. “[The money] helps. It’s just going to make me get in bigger tournaments,” he said. “In the past, I was selling little pieces. I didn’t always keep everything. Now I’m just on my own so this is 100% me.”

The pace of play at the final table started slow, but once the action picked up, the eliminations came quickly, and Turner steamrolled the table. During the first two hours on Monday, there were five all-in confrontations, and the short-stack doubled up each time. There were no eliminations until after the first break of the day, when Mike Rieck was eliminated on the final table's 66th hand. In the next hour and 15 minutes, four more players were eliminated, and by the end of the fourth full level of the day, Turner was heads up against Javier Zarco.

For everyone watching the final table, it came as no surprise that Zarco made it to heads-up play against Turner. He started the day fifth in chips with less than a third of Turner's stack, but he dominated the final day of play nearly as much as Turner. At one point, he nearly surpassed Turner in the counts after picking off the eventual-winner's big river bluff, but by the time heads-up play began, Turner had re-established his lead and held a chip advantage of more than 2-1.

In addition to the ring and the prize money, Turner wins a free entry into the 2015 WSOP National Championship. Every Main Event winner and Casino Champion on the Circuit during the 2014-2015 season receives a free entry worth \$10,000, and event will have a minimum prize pool of \$1,000,000. The National Championship will be held in late July, and full details are expected to be released soon.

The tournament began Friday with Day 1A, which attracted 194 entries. Day 1B saw an additional 221 entries, and the 415-entry field generated a prize pool of \$622,500. In-the-money finishers include Tom Franklin (43rd Place, \$2,814), Yuval Bronshtein (41st place, \$2,814), Yossi Azulay (29th place, \$3,897), Michael Sanders (28th place, \$3,897), three-time Circuit ring winner Josh Reichard (25th place, \$4,451), and Chris Conrad (19th, \$6,032). Among those who entered but didn't make the money are Kevin Saul, Jarod Ludemann, BJ McBrayer, Zal Irani, WSOP bracelet winners Kyle Cartwright and Chris Tryba, and former November Niner Dennis Phillips.

The Main Event was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Lumiere Place. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 415 entries. The total prize pool came to \$622,500 and the top 45 players were paid.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28 at 12 p.m. Flight A boasted 194 entries and advanced 36 while Flight B drew 221 and advanced 44. Both starting flights logged 15 levels of play.

Day 2 restarted Sunday at 2 p.m. with 80 players remaining. The money bubble burst toward the end of Level 18 (~3:15 p.m.) and play wrapped toward the end of Level 23 at the nine-handed final table (~12 a.m.).

Day 3 restarted Monday at 1 p.m. and action concluded at the beginning of Level 28 (~6:20 p.m.) making the total duration of the finale five hours and 20 minutes.

Final table seating assignments and chip counts:

Action began with four minutes left in the 8,000/16,000 with a 2,000 ante level (Level 23)

Seat 1: Scott Vetter - 306,000 (19 BBs)

Seat 2: Ben Beighle - 1,600,000 (100 BBs)

Seat 3: Jesse Watson - 469,000 (29 BBs)
Seat 4: Joshua Turner - 2,129,000 (133 BBs)*
Seat 5: Michael Rieck - 243,000 (15 BBs)
Seat 6: Javier Zarco - 645,000 (40 BBs)
Seat 7: John Longowa - 1,676,000 (104 BBs)
Seat 8: Zac Campbell - 663,000 (41 BBs)
Seat 9: David Lee - 572,000 (35 BBs)

**Chip leader*

About the final table:

1st: Joshua Turner - \$136,945
Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.
Occupation: Professional poker player
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$67,682

2nd: Javier Zarco - \$84,629
Hometown: Madrid, Spain
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$38,934

3rd: David Lee - \$61,839
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$44,089

4th: Jesse Watson - \$45,916
Hometown: Canton, Ill.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$16,283

5th: Zac Campbell - \$34,623
Hometown: Memphis, Mo.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

6th: John Longowa - \$26,500
Hometown: Weldon Spring, Mo.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

7th: Scott Vetter - \$20,580
Hometown: Washington, Ill.
WSOP earnings: \$6,031
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$23,338

8th: Ben Beighle - \$16,210
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Occupation: Poker tournament supervisor
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$0

9th: Michael Rieck - \$12,948
Hometown: Louisiana, Mo.
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$1,390

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
EVENT #4: Charlie Dawson defeated 181 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,118
EVENT #5: Jesse Watson defeated 187 players (\$365 NLH Six Handed) for \$15,428
EVENT #6: Bradley Coultas defeated 193 players (\$365 NLH Black Chip Bounty) for \$10,036
EVENT #7: Kevin McColgan defeated 183 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,275
EVENT #8: Karl Sederberg defeated 128 players (\$365 PLO) for \$10,752
EVENT #9 (Main Event): Josh Turner defeated 415 entries (\$1,675 NLH) for \$136,945
EVENT #10: Kyle Hogan defeated 150 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,596
EVENT #11: Peter Brooks defeated 110 players (\$365 NLH) for \$9,901
EVENT #12: Ryan Teppen defeated 96 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$8,638

Jesse Watson of Canton, Ill. earned Casino Champion honors of the Lumiere Place series following first- and 41st-place finishes in preliminary events with a fourth-place finish in the Main Event. In all, Watson earned 95 points toward the 12-tournament race, besting second place Mark Fledderman by 20. The performance punches Watson's ticket to the 2015 National Championship where he'll compete alongside the Lumiere Place Main Event champion, Josh Turner, for a piece of an up-to \$2 million prize pool and a gold bracelet.

All players who cashed in ring events earned points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of 56 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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For additional information please contact:

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