

2014/2015 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 11

Horseshoe Casino

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Event #1

No-Limit Hold'em

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

Total Entries: 150

Prize Pool: \$45,000

April 9-10, 2015



David Hengen Wins Council Bluffs Opener

The first of 12 gold ring events on the 2015 schedule concludes with Omaha-based attorney in the winner's circle.

David Hengen scores his first gold ring along with \$12,596 in a \$365 no-limit hold'em event.

Council Bluffs, Iowa (April 10, 2015) — David Hengen came out on top in the opening event of the 2015 World Series of Poker Circuit at Horseshoe Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Hengen, an attorney from nearby Omaha, bested 150 players in Event 1, a \$365 no-limit hold'em tournament, to earn \$12,596 along with his first career gold ring and 50 points toward the Casino Championship.

“It feels great,” Hengen said of winning. “This is actually the third time I’ve been heads up in a ring event and the first time I’ve won, so it feels great.”

Hengen’s previous runner-up finishes both came at the Council Bluffs property. In 2010 he watched as fellow Nebraskan Curtis Timperley snagged the top spot in a \$235 event. Then, in 2013 he had a front row seat as Stanislav Barshak claimed a \$51,479 first prize in a \$1,125 no-limit hold'em tournament. With those close calls behind him, Hengen came to Day 2 of this year’s opener holding the chip lead with eight players remaining.

“I was probably more patient [this time],” Hengen said of his most recent performance. “In the past I was heads up, but both contests ended very quickly. This time I was determined to grind it out.”

In addition to his newfound patience, Hengen had luck on his side. Holding the short stack heads up against Minnesota’s Joe Osterbauer, Hengen looked down at pocket queens. The duo got in a raising war that saw Hengen get the last of his stack in against the pocket jacks of Osterbauer. His hand held and it was just a matter of minutes before he eliminated Osterbauer second to claim his first gold ring.

“I knew [Osterbauer] was very aggressive and was capable of making big bets,” Hengen recalled of the hand. “I also know that queens is a monster heads up. I wasn’t sure that I was ahead, but I was willing to get it in. I was lucky they held up.”

The score comes in what marked Hengen's 11th career Circuit cash and fourth final table appearance. Additionally, it moves him over \$85,000 in WSOP-related earnings. He describes himself as a part-time professional who travels the Circuit when he's able to get time away from his traditional job. The close proximity of the Horseshoe to his hometown affords him a luxury he doesn't usually have when he has to travel cross-country to scratch his poker itch.

"It's awesome," he said of having a Circuit series at his home casino. "When I go to other Circuit events, I just play [on the weekends]. Here [I can play] several tournaments in a row. It's great."

The 2015 Council Bluffs Circuit series marks the property's ninth time to host a WSOP event. Gold ring events run now through Monday, April 20 when they conclude with the crowning of the Main Event champion. Like other series, two players from Council Bluffs will punch their ticket to the WSOP National Championship set to take place July 29-31 at Harrah's Cherokee in North Carolina.

Event 1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Council Bluffs. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event attracted 150 players. The total prize pool came to \$45,000 and the top 15 finishers were paid.

The tournament began Thursday, April 9 at 12 p.m. and Day 1 wrapped following Level 19 (~1 a.m.) with eight players remaining. Day 2 began Friday at 2 p.m. and action concluded toward the end of Level 23 (~5 p.m.).

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Council Bluffs

EVENT #1: David Hengen defeated 150 players (\$365 NLH) for \$12,596

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Council Bluffs' 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP National Championship set to take place at Harrah's Casino in Cherokee, N.C. July 29-31. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn 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.

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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