

## **2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 12**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, MD**

**Event #7**

**Big O**

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

**Total Entries: 82**

**Prize Pool: \$24,600**

**August 25-26, 2015**



## **Phil Hernz Wins The Circuit's First-Ever Big O Event**

**Former poker dealer moves to the top of the Casino Champion leaderboard.**

**Baltimore, MD. (August 26, 2015)** — Phil Hernz is the champion of Event #7, the Circuit's inaugural Big O tournament. Hernz defeated a field of 82 players to win his first gold ring and the \$7,873 top prize. He also earned 50 points in the race for Casino Champion, vaulting him into the overall lead with five events remaining.

The champion is a 23-year-old former poker dealer from the Gulf Coast of Florida. He now makes his home in Plantation, a small city on the other end of Alligator Alley, and this win represents a fine beginning to his live tournament career.

Big O is played as five-card pot-limit Omaha hi/lo, and Hernz certainly knows his way around split-pot games. He's been playing them since he was just a boy.

"My mom taught me everything I know about hi/lo," he said. "She's been playing for years, and I've been playing since I was about nine years old. I actually learned hi/lo before I knew no-limit hold'em."

Hernz's experience showed as the field began to shrink to a manageable number. He began the final table second-to-last in chips, but he maneuvered his way into a heads-up match with Hunter McClelland. Hernz faced an uphill climb with a 2:1 chip disadvantage, but he navigated the duel masterfully. About 90 minutes after they began, he had collected all of his opponent's chips.

"I definitely think I had an edge the whole way," he admits, though he seems hesitant to boast. "I'd like to think I was the best player at the final table, but there weren't many big blinds in play. Short-stacked. Have to get lucky. Have to get cards."

Hernz had both luck and cards on Wednesday, and the result was his first live tournament victory.

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Event #7 was the seventh of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 event was the first Big O event in Circuit history, attracting 82 players and generating a prizepool of \$24,600. The final 10 players finished in the money, with two players splitting the ninth-place payout.

The tournament began at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, and Day 1 concluded when the final table was reached shortly before 3:00 the following morning. The final table was held on Wednesday, August 26, starting at 3:00 p.m., and the last hand was dealt at approximately 9:00 p.m., making the total duration of the final table about six hours.

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The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Baltimore's 12 ring events earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of the limited at-large bids. More information on the points system is available on [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

All rings at Horseshoe Baltimore are furnished by [Jostens](http://Jostens), the official ring supplier of the 2015-2015 WSOP Circuit season.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or visit [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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