

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, N.C.
Event #5
Pot-Limit Omaha
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 212
Prize Pool: \$63,600
November 30 – December 1, 2015**



Brian McDaniel Scores His First Career Gold Ring at Harrah's Cherokee

Brian McDaniel gets to share his experience of winning his first gold ring with his brother, who was supporting him the whole way through.

Cherokee, N.C. (December 2, 2015) -- Brian McDaniel has just won the Pot-Limit Omaha gold ring at the Harrah's Cherokee series. This has been his best stop on the Circuit and he just earned his first career gold ring here to verify that.

McDaniel's first career Circuit cash came at this property last year in the six max event. Since then he has recorded 10 Circuit cashes, including reaching six Circuit final tables. Of those six final tables, four have come at Harrah's Cherokee.

Beside this victory, the cash that really stands out on McDaniel's resume is his 12th place finish in the 2015 National Championship, and what do you know that was held right here at Harrah's Cherokee. McDaniel's finished in 12th place for \$25,010. It is still to this day his largest WSOP cash.

McDaniel's almost did not even qualify for the National Championship last year. It came down to the final series of the season for him to earn a seat into the National Championship. He was just a few points shy of earning an at-large bid heading into the final series of the 2014/2015 Circuit season, which was held at Foxwood's Resort. He recorded an 8th place finish in the six max event to give himself just enough points to qualify for the National Championship.

This victory bolts McDaniel up in the Global Casino Championship (previously known as the National Championship) standings for this year and he is off to a strong start toward earning a seat for the second consecutive year. This victory also puts McDaniel's in contention for winning the series' Casino Championship title. He currently sits in sixth place with half of the events remaining. The winner of the Casino Championship earns an automatic bid to the 2016 Global Casino Championship.

The final table was a grind it out, survival of the fittest type of final table. It ended up lasting an incredible nine hours and 20 minutes long. McDaniel had experienced too many close calls in the past to give in easily.

"On break I would go out by the river and mentally focus on the next steps along the way," said McDaniel.

McDaniel would end up surviving the long grind and then defeating three-time gold ring winner, John Holley, heads-up for the gold ring. Holley earned \$9,827 for his runner-up finish.

"I am stoked because so many people have been pulling for me, like my parents, my mom especially," said McDaniel. "She is going to be super happy."

Event #5 was the fifth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Cherokee. The \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha tournament attracted 212 players generating a \$63,600 prize pool. The top 24 players were paid.

Day 1 began Monday at 4 p.m. and lasted 16 levels. Day 2 began Tuesday at 3 p.m. with 13 players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 1:50 a.m. Wednesday midway through Level 28.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Harrah's Cherokee twelve combined gold ring tournaments earns the title Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the year.

All players who cash in ring events receive points that apply toward the Casino Championship race and the season-long race to claim one of 50 at-large Global Casino Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Harrah's Cherokee:

EVENT #1: Cody Pack defeated 2,712 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$117,991

EVENT #2: Stuart Moody defeated 396 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$26,135

EVENT #3: Roongsak Griffeth defeated 358 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$41,169

EVENT #4: Mike Kaczmarek defeated 427 players (\$365 NLHE 6-max) for \$29,462

EVENT #5: Brian McDaniel defeated 212 players (\$365 PLO) for \$15,900

With the first five tournaments wrapped up, seven more ring events remain at the Harrah's Cherokee series.

All rings at Harrah's Cherokee are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2015-2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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