

**2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 12
Harrah's Cherokee
Cherokee, N.C.
Event #9
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 368
Prize Pool: \$110,400
December 3-4, 2015**



James McAuley Cashes In at Cherokee

James McAuley wins Event #9 - \$365 No-Limit Hold'em to earn his first WSOP Circuit gold ring.

Cherokee, N.C. (December 5, 2015) -- James McAuley has just won the ninth event at the Harrah's Cherokee series to earn his first WSOP Circuit gold ring and the top prize of \$24,286. McAuley has been playing the Harrah's Cherokee Circuit series' since they began in April of 2013.

"Ever since the WSOP has been here [in Cherokee]. I have been here," said McAuley.

In the first Harrah's Cherokee series ever McAuley cashed twice, including reaching one final table. Since that series he has only cashed one other time before this event.

"It feels pretty good. It's been a long time," said McAuley about winning the gold ring.

McAuley had the support of a large rail during his final table. When the final card of the tournament hit the river McAuley jumped out of his seat to share his excitement with his rail.

"I had a coach named James Kenny who had been very good to me. He helped me to stay focused and not make any mistakes, not overplay hands like I normally do. Congrats to him with me," said McAuley.

McAuley is a land surveyor from Chesterfield, S.C. He has been a land surveyor since the age of 21. He said he can attribute some of his success from poker to his math skills that he has obtained from being a land surveyor.

Event #9 was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Cherokee. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em tournament attracted 368 players generating a \$110,400 prize pool. The top 45 players were paid.

Day 1 began Thursday at 4 p.m. and lasted 15 levels. Day 2 began Friday at 3 p.m. with 45 players remaining. The tournament concluded at about 1 a.m. Saturday at the beginning of Level 27.

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
EVENT #6: Andrew Robinson defeated 380 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$25,078
EVENT #7: Derek Updegraff defeated 941 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$53,641
EVENT #8: Clayton Jiang defeated 319 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$37,486
EVENT #9: James McAuley defeated 368 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$24,286

With the first nine tournaments wrapped up, only three 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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For additional information please contact:

Isaac Hanson (WSOP Media Coordinator) at ijhanson13@gmail.com.