

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 12

Harrah's Atlantic City

Atlantic City, NJ

Event #5

No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry

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

Total Entries: 484

Prize Pool: \$145,200

March 18-21, 2016



Kalid Ali Wins First Gold Ring in Re-entry Event

Ethiopian-American pro collects \$31,216 for a “beautiful” victory in Event #5

Atlantic City, NJ (March 21, 2016) — Kalid Ali is the champion of Event #5 at Harrah's Atlantic City, defeating a field of 484 entries to win his first gold ring. In addition to the jewelry, Ali earned the top prize of \$31,216 and 50 points toward the race for seats in the WSOP Global Casino Championship.

The champ is a 42-year-old professional poker player. He's originally from Ethiopia, but he's been a resident of Washington D.C. for the past 13 years. Ali gave up his coffee business six years ago to focus on the game more seriously, and he's been playing full time for the past year or so. This tournament result is his largest on record.

Ali seemed destined for the winner's circle for a long while down the stretch run. He was already the chip leader late on Day 2 when he dragged the tournament's largest pot, culminating in a crucial double knockout. With ten players left, Ali was dealt pocket aces in the cutoff, Daniel Buzgon pocket queens on the button, and Vinny Pahuja pocket jacks in the big blind. Both of Ali's opponents got it all in preflop, and Ali put them at risk with his overpair. “That was exciting,” he smiled as he thought back to the pivotal pot. “My hand held up. I mean, that was beautiful.”

With two dangerous opponents out of the way, the path to victory became a bit more clear. If anyone else was going to beat Ali, it was likely going to be Aditya Prasetyo. The two-time ring winner picked his spots carefully as the final table shrank, and he had taken over the chip lead by the time they were three handed. Ali denied him in the end, though, retaking the lead prior to the heads-up match and sealing the victory after some brief back-and-forth.

When asked about his plan entering heads-up play, Ali emphasized the need for aggression against a tough opponent. “He's a beast,” he said. “I knew I had to play my ‘A’ game. I just tried to show him that he didn't intimidate me.”

Ali was indeed the more aggressive of the two in the duel, putting in big reraises and showing down bluffs on several occasions. Prasetyo had a chance to square the match on the final hand, but fate was on Ali's side. The two got it all on on a ten-high flop, and Ali's king-ten was in bad shape against Prasetyo's pocket jacks. A king on the river drew an eruption of noise from Ali and his rail, though, and the dealer pushed him Prasetyo's chips to secure the victory.

Ali was beaming as he posed for his winner's photos. "It's beautiful," he said again, admiring his new ring. "Trust me. More than the money, I wanted this. I swear. You can't play basketball with Lebron James. But you can play poker with anybody, and you have a chance to win."

Event #5 was the fifth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Harrah's Atlantic City. The \$365 re-entry event drew a field of 484 entries, generating a prizepool worth \$145,200. The final 54 players finished in the money.

Day 1A began at 12:00 p.m on Friday, March 18, drawing 129 entries with 14 advancing. Day 1B began at 5:00 p.m. with 87 entries and 11 advancing. Day 1C began at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, drawing 268 additional entries to bring the field to 484 total. The final 42 advanced, so a total of 67 returned for the combined Day 2 on Sunday, March 20 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Play was suspended with three players remaining at 2:00 a.m. the following morning. The unscheduled Day 3 began at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 21, and the last hand was dealt just before 3:00 p.m.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Harrah's Atlantic City'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.

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

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