

2015/2016 World Series of Poker Circuit

Horseshoe Baltimore

Event #11

High Roller

Buy-In: \$3,250

Total Entries: 50

Total Prize Pool: \$150,000

April 4, 2016

CJ Welch Wins Down Payment for House and first Ring in High Roller

Baltimore, MD (4 April 2016) – The \$3,250 High Roller event of the Horseshoe Baltimore drew an even 50 players for a \$150,000 prize pool. Day 2 saw 13 players return, one late entry and after an extended three-handed match CJ Welch won his first gold ring and \$56,250.

"It's overwhelming, that's why I'm a little choked up," Welch said moments after winning. "I worked so hard for it, waiting for it, it means a lot."

"I first started playing during the Moneymaker boom, but started taking poker seriously in 2014," Welch continued. "I was on track to become a grocery store manager, but dropped out of managerial program to focus on poker."

Welch said he may have started the day with the worst table draw. Chip leader Chase Bianchi was directly to his left and had another top three stack three seats to his left.

Outside of padding his poker bankroll, his main priority with the money is to use it toward a down payment on a house. "I'm also was planning to play in Vegas this summer, this score may extend my stay a little bit," Welch he said. "It's the highest buy-in I've ever played and had about 75% of myself."

The final hand saw Leonard August open with a raise to 40,000 and CJ Welch called to see a flop of [Kd,Qh,4h]. Welch checked, August bet 40,000 and Welch check-raises to 110,000. August shoved, Welch snap-called and tabled pocket aces. August tabled [K,Jd] for a pair of kings, the board completed [Th,6h], Welch's aces held. Welch took down the pot, eliminating August, earning himself \$56,250 and his first WSOP Circuit ring.

The event saw Maryland natives Greg Merson, Christian Harder and Tony Gregg all play, but only Gregg made Day 2. Chase Bianchi brought a gigantic chip lead to Day 2 – twice what second place bagged up, but had a rough day at the felt and busted before the money.

Final Table Payouts

1. Charles Welch - \$56,250
 2. Leonard August - \$34,700
 3. Alex Queen - \$24,210
 4. Dennis Gnidash - \$18,765
 5. Michael Andrews - \$16,005
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This is the eleventh event to finish of the WSOPC Horseshoe Baltimore stop. The player who accumulates the most overall points in the 12 gold ring events at the Horseshoe Baltimore earns the title of Casino Champion. The receive and automatic entry into the \$1 million 2016 WSOP Global Casino Championship. Also, the winner of the Horseshoe Baltimore Main Event earns an automatic ticket to the freeroll. All players that cash in ring events receive points that apply to both the Casino Champion race and the season-long race to claim one of the 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.

There are still seven more gold ring events before the WSOP Circuit wraps up on April 4.

[Michael Liang Wins Event 1 with \\$1 Million Guarantee for \\$182,920](#)

[Justin Liberto Wins 3rd WSOPC Ring, Defends Title for \\$21,734](#)

[Blake Whittington Goes Wire-to-Wire for First Ring and \\$12,434](#)

[Jeremy Perez Overcomes 2-1 Chip Deficit, Wins First Ring for \\$16,666](#)

[Wilfredo Dinio Builds Massive Stack, Never Looks Back, Wins 1st Ring](#)

[Recent Retiree William House Ships Turbo Event for \\$14,899](#)

[Aditya Prasetyo Wins 3rd WSOPC Ring, \\$19,600 & Secures Seat in Casino Global Championship](#)

All rings at Horseshoe Baltimore are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2015-2016 WSOP Circuit season.

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