



## 2016 WSOP OFFICIAL REPORT

### BRANDON SHACK-HARRIS WINS \$10,000 BUY-IN 8-HANDED POT-LIMIT OMAHA CHAMPIONSHIP

Chicago poker pro collects \$894,300 top prize in Event #51

Shack-Harris win second career WSOP gold bracelet – both in Pot-Limit Omaha

Previous WSOP winner Loren Klein finishes as runner up

Jason Mercier cashes for tenth time at 2016 series – on pace to break record

### MEET THE LATEST WSOP GOLD BRACELET CHAMPION

Name: Brandon Shack-Harris

Birthplace: Racine, WI

Current Residence: Chicago, IL

Profession: Professional Poker Player

Number of WSOP Cashes: 20

Number of WSOP Final Table Appearances: 9

Number of WSOP Gold Bracelet Victories (with this tournament): 2

Best Previous WSOP Finish: 1<sup>st</sup> (2014)

Total WSOP Earnings: \$2,613,068

Winner's Quote:

*"This is definitely the most gratifying moment for me in my poker career."*

Brandon Shack-Harris has just won his second World Series of Poker gold bracelet. The professional poker player from Chicago won the \$10,000 buy-in 8-Handed Pot-Limit Omaha tournament, which was played over four days and three nights and concluded on the ESPN main stage at the Rio in Las Vegas.

Shack-Harris collected a whopping \$894,300 in prize money, making this the biggest win of his career. In fact, it was his second WSOP victory in Pot-Limit Omaha. Shack-Harris previously won the \$1,000 buy-in Pot-Limit Omaha event, in 2014.

This marked the latest champion's most satisfying performance. He's now accumulated \$2.5 million in career series earnings. Shack-Harris also has two second-place finishes and two thirds on his

resume, proving once and for all he's been one of the game's most consistent performers since his first cash at the annual Las Vegas summer series back in 2011.

When asked to compare this victory with his previous results, Shack-Harris pointed to this achievement as a personal and professional milestone.

"This one meant a lot more for sure, and that's for several reasons," Shack-Harris said in a post-tournament interview. "The last time was easier....and I won it because I sucked out on the last hand. I felt really bad for the guy (I beat). That's not the way you want to win. You want to get it in good."

Shack-Harris also noted that this tournament was much tougher than others where he's gone deep, including his 2014 win.

"This tournament I had really tough people on my left all the time and they would play back at me," Shack-Harris said. "I was having to play out of position all the time. You have to do a weird balancing act....it was really difficult. All my friends were with me this time, too and that's really gratifying winning a really tough tournament."

Shack-Harris won his victory by coming out on top at a final table which included several players seeking their first WSOP victory, and Loren Klein, who was also hoping to win his second victory at this year's series. Shack-Harris knew that achieving victory would require some non-standard play on his part.

"There are a lot really great players in this final table. But I didn't want to play again Loren (Klein) heads up....Loren is a really special player," he said. "He plays a very unorthodox style. We played some street PLO. He plays great. Even the bracelet when I won, he was the chip leader in that going into Day Two. I was reminded why he's done so well."

Perhaps somewhat foreseeable, that previous final table experience really mattered. The two former winners faced off in Day Four's head-up battle. When the duel began, Shack-Harris had a close to a 2 to 1 chip advantage over Klein. It took about 90 minutes for the battle towards a second WSOP win to be decided.

The moment of triumph came when Shack-Harris scooped the final pot of the tournament against Klein, who finished as the runner up. Klein, from Northern Nevada, couldn't have been too disappointed, at least financially speaking. He pocketed \$552,713 less than a week after winning the \$1,500 buy-in Mixed NLHE/PLO tourney.

This tourney attracted 400 entrants which created a prize pool totaling \$3,760,000. The top 60 finishers collected prize money.

Aside from the winner, here's a brief report of the other top finishers who made the final table:

**Second Place:** Loren Klein, from Verdi, NV came close to winning what would have been a second gold bracelet victory after winning Event #45 just a week earlier. Klein overcame a decisive chip disadvantage and took the lead heads up at one point, but could not maintain the edge. He ended up finishing in second place, which paid \$552,713. Klein now has \$1.1 million in WSOP earnings in what was his 24<sup>th</sup> time to cash. He's now posted five in-the-money finishes at this series and jumped into contention in the "Player of the Year" race with another impressive finish.

**Third Place:** Tommy Le, from Tustin, CA made his second final table of the series, coming in fifth and now third. However, this deep run sure paid off handsomely. Le collected \$376,667 in what was his tenth time to cash at the series.

**Fourth Place:** Melad Marji, from Oneida Castle, NY has posted five min-cashes before arriving at this final table, which ended up paying more than a quarter-million dollars. Marji raked in \$261,652 for finishing in fourth place.

**Fifth Place:** Matthew Parry, from Fairport, NY cashed for the second time at this series and sixth occasion overall by taking in \$185,337 for fifth place.

**Sixth Place:** Harley Stoffmaker, from Cote Saint Luc, QB (Canada) had just one cash prior to this event, which was a nice run in last year's "Millionaire Maker." This tournament turned out to be something slightly less than that lofty goal, but still worthy of six figures. The only Canadian at the final table earned \$133,918.

**Seventh Place:** Junayed Khan, from New York, NY cashed for the first time ever in a WSOP event by coming in seventh place in this tournament. He received \$98,748.

**Eighth Place:** Dominique Mosley, a former poker dealer from Miami, FL had six min-cashes coming into this tournament. He made his first final table and although he busted out early, Mosley still raked in a nice payout totaling \$74,339.

This was the 51<sup>st</sup> official event on this year's schedule. This leaves only 18 gold bracelet events to be played at the 2016 WSOP.

#### **OTHER NOTABLE IN-THE MONEY FINISHERS:**

Jesper Hougaard, a two-time gold bracelet winner (he won victories in both Las Vegas and at WSOP-Europe in 2008), finished in 14<sup>th</sup> place.

Peter Eichhardt, another Swedish gold bracelet winner from earlier this year (he won Event #6, the \$1,500 buy-in NLHE tourney), cashed in 19<sup>th</sup> place.

Gary Benson, the first WSOP gold bracelet winner in history from Australia (1996), finished in 23<sup>rd</sup> place.

Scott Seiver, a gold bracelet winner (2008) came in 26<sup>th</sup> place.

Jason Mercier, a five-time gold bracelet winner who currently leads the 2016 WSOP "Player of the Year" race cashed in 36<sup>th</sup> place. This marked his tenth cash of this year's series, which is on pace to break the all-time cashes record in a single series.

Mike Matusow, with four gold bracelets, finished in 47<sup>th</sup> place.

Erik Seidel, eight-time gold bracelet winner and member of the Poker Hall of Fame, cashed in 60<sup>th</sup> place. This was his 98<sup>th</sup> time in-the-money at the series, which currently ranks second all-time.

## **FUN FACTS:**

The ages of participants ranged from 21 to 72. The eldest player in the field was Harry Thomas.

The breakdown of player nationalities for this event was 278 Americans and 122 players from elsewhere. The top five nations represented was the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Ireland, and Australia.

The breakdown of participants by gender was 99 percent males and 1 percent females.

## **EVENT DIRECT LINKS:**

For this event's official final results (listing all players who finished in-the-money), please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/results.asp?grid=1232&tid=14951>

For Brandon Shack-Harris' official player profile page, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/players/playerprofile.asp?playerID=73004>

For the live reporting logs for this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/tournaments/updates.asp?grid=1232&tid=14951>

To access licensed images from this all other 2016 WSOP gold bracelet events, please visit:

[www.pokerphotoarchive.com](http://www.pokerphotoarchive.com)

For the live stream archive of this event, please visit:

<http://www.wsop.com/videos/?vcat=2>

*(Note: Will appear 48 hours after event concludes)*

*Written by Nolan Dalla (WSOP Media Staff)*