

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit  
Season 13  
Planet Hollywood Casino  
Las Vegas, NV  
Event #10  
No-Limit Hold'em  
Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)  
Total Entries: 68  
Prize Pool: \$34,000  
September 4-5, 2016**



## **Jim Willerson Wins \$580 No-Limit Hold'em**

**San Antonio attorney adds ring to collection after winning bracelet in 2012.**

**Las Vegas, NV (September 5, 2016)** — Before Monday evening, Jim Willerson only had one tournament win on his poker resume. It was a big one, earning \$737,248 in a \$1,500 no-limit hold'em event at the 2012 World Series of Poker.

On Monday afternoon, Willerson added his second win to his list of poker accomplishments and added a ring to his trophy case to sit next to his bracelet. He bested a field of 68 players in the \$580 no-limit hold'em event to take home \$11,899.

“I know the expression,” said Willerson about winning a bracelet before a ring. “It always feels good to win a live event. It’s not the main, but it still feels good.”

Willerson resides in San Antonio and has his own law practice, but after his bracelet win in 2012, poker became a much bigger part of his life. About a month later, he earned more than \$60,000 in a seventh place finish at the Legends of Poker main event in Los Angeles, just missing out on a televised final table.

After a bracelet win and a deep run in another big buy-in event, Willerson went through a long run without much success.

“I went through some times where I just wasn’t successful enough, so I slowed down,” said Willerson. “I went through kind of a time where if I cashed, it wasn’t very big or I would bust and not cash. I just wasn’t getting enough of a return on my money.”

Throughout his dry spell, Willerson’s confidence dropped and doubt about whether or not he could be a successful poker player grew.

“After the win and then I had a big cash in California, my confidence was real high,” he said. “But it did fluctuate for a little while and I was just wondering if I should just go back to where I was when I was first really going after tournaments or should I try to play a certain kind of way.”

But after making some adjustments in his tournament game, he found his way back on top and winning a ring.

“I’ve gotten a much better feel for how I need to play and I’ve gotten to understand the structures of each different tournaments and how the good players are going to attack you based on the structure,” said Willerson. “When you tweak the structure, it’s really a different tournament.”

Willerson still has his law practice and is more of a “semi-professional” in his own words. Instead of traveling all over the country, he sticks to coming to Las Vegas and going north into Oklahoma for tournaments.

He came out here for the main event, but failed to make Day 2. If it weren’t for busting the main event, he wouldn’t have ended up with his first ring. The win was anything but easy for him, though.

“I assume that the other players came out for the main and didn’t cash. So people were aggressive early and they were shoving on everybody and I was just trying to get chips early,” said Willerson. “Once it got to the point where there were 20 players or so, I had so many ups and downs that it’s too much to describe. I had times where my only move was shoving and I had times where I was the chip leader.”

Along with the win, Willerson earns 50 points towards the Global Casino Championship. Willerson won’t accrue enough points to win Casino Champion at this stop, but their points will rollover and could possibly earn enough to receive an at-large bid if they play more Circuit events in the future.

This was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Planet Hollywood. The \$580 no-limit hold’em turbo event attracted 68 players. The total prize pool came to \$34,000 and the top seven finishers were paid.

Cards got in the air on Sunday, September 4 at noon and a final table was reached around 10 p.m. The final two players bagged up chips for the night around 2:30 a.m. and came back on Monday at 2 p.m. A winner was crowned around 3:30. The duration of the final table lasted about six hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from Planet Hollywood:

EVENT #1: Hayden Aalvik defeated 556 players (\$365 NLH Re-Entry) for \$35,026  
EVENT #2: Dale Beaudoin defeated 71 players (\$580 NLH) for \$12,071  
EVENT #3: Vincent Moscati defeated 83 players (\$365 NLH) for \$7,968  
EVENT #4: James Mink defeated 170 players (\$365 NLH Six-Max) for \$13,769  
EVENT #5: Sean Marshall defeated 100 players (\$580 NLH) for \$14,997  
EVENT #6: Ben Palmer defeated 339 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$23,389  
EVENT #7: Caleb Shumard defeated 57 players (\$580 PLO) for \$10,686  
EVENT #8: Josh Mammon defeated 127 players (\$365 NLH Turbo) for \$10,668  
EVENT #9: Sean Yu defeated 528 players (\$1,675 NLH Main Event) for \$170,286  
EVENT #10: Jim Willerson defeated 68 players (\$580 NLH) for \$11,899

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Planet Hollywood’s 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title 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 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](http://WSOP.com).

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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