

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harvey's Lake Tahoe
Stateline, Nevada
Event #10
No-Limit Hold'em Main Event
Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)
Total Entries: 475
Prize Pool: \$712,500
November 4, 2016**



Main Event Victory by Steady Play and a Second Chance

Michael Pearson endured three days of tournament play to find himself as the last man standing in the Harvey's Lake Tahoe Main Event.

Stateline, Nevada (November 7, 2016) – Michael Pearson navigated through 475 players and three, grueling days of poker to claim the ultimate Circuit prize and a monstrous payday to boot. The 29-year-old came out on top of Event #10: \$1,675 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event to win his first WSOP gold ring. The signature tournament concluded Monday evening under the main stage spotlight at Harvey's Lake Tahoe.

“It's a good tournament. Tahoe is great; a great place to be for a weekend,” Pearson stated.

It could be said that the trip proved to be more than great for Pearson. He will be going home with a remarkable souvenir and over \$150,000. This will surely be a visit he never forgets.

The lure of the Main Event brought Pearson to Stateline, Nevada, traveling from his hometown of San Francisco, California. Pearson started playing poker, as a hobby, when he was seventeen years of age. Only somewhat recently has he dove into the live poker scene.

“I guess I started playing three years ago, more live. Mostly cash, but I'm liking tournaments a lot more now,” Pearson said with a grin.

Tournament style seemed to work out splendidly for Pearson. He became a large blip on the Main Event radar when he survived Day 1A with the overall chip lead. There were 38 players that made it out of Flight A and 68 players from Flight B, for a total field of 106 moving on to play in Day 2.

Pearson maintained his success in Day 2 and even scored the fateful, money bubble knockout to provide all remaining players at the time with a guaranteed cash finish. Only eight players survived Day 2 of the Main Event and Pearson finished in the middle of the pack with just over one million in chips.

Day 3 began and Pearson was holding his own at a tough final table. A tremendously pivotal point in play for Pearson happened when he found himself butting heads with Valerie Hanley.

There was almost 360,000 in the pot and two diamonds on the flop when Hanley bet 200,000. Pearson held the king and queen of diamonds and made his move.

“I think at that point I just have to go with it. If there’s any chance she is folding I have to ship it (move all in). If I have any fold equity I have to try and take it,” said Pearson. “Then she ends up having the very worst thing for me to see.”

Hanley called Pearson’s shove and turned over her ace and jack of diamonds, showing a superior high card and higher flush draw. Pearson’s tournament life was on the verge of being extinguished. Then, a fateful queen came on the river, giving Pearson a pair and new life.

Pearson took his second chance and pushed forward. In fact, almost directly after the hand with Hanley, he found himself in another bout. This time around it was against an unfriendly foe, Ted Lawson, the owner of a WSOP bracelet and Circuit gold ring. Lawson was submerged in the tank early on in Day 3 and Pearson called the clock on him. Pearson alluded to the incident when talking about his succeeding clash with Lawson.

“Nothing personal, but I have to think it might play into what’s going on in his head and I just happened to have aces,” said Pearson.

The two got it all in on the flop and Lawson’s pocket queens were no match for Pearson’s rockets. Pearson scored yet another huge double up and claimed the outright chip lead. From there, he never looked back.

With his dominant collection of chips, Pearson rolled through the rest of the final table, seemingly bulling all the smaller stacks. He eventually found himself heads up with Michael McDonough who put up a good fight, but could not overcome the substantial. Pearson was crowned the Main Event Champion, awarded \$153,191, and is now the owner of a World Series of Poker gold ring. He also clinches an automatic bid to the Global Casino Championship that will take place in late 2017.

Event #12 was the twelfth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Harvey’s Lake Tahoe series. The \$365 No-Limit Hold’em Re-Entry tournament attracted 201 players generating a \$60,300 prizepool. The top 21 players were paid.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Circuits twelve combined gold ring events earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship set to take place at the end of the season.

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 the Harvey’s Lake Tahoe series:

EVENT #1: Greg Armand defeated 145 players (\$365 NLHE 30 Minute Levels) for \$12,181

EVENT #2: Julian Galvan defeated 73 players (\$365 PLO Re-Entry) for \$7,446
EVENT #3: David Cossio defeated 541 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$34,084
EVENT #4: Chad DeLanzo defeated 155 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$12,555
EVENT #5: Mark Threadgill defeated 97 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$8,729
EVENT #6: Robert Zarzycki defeated 187 players (\$365 NLHE Six Max) for \$15,428
EVENT #7: Dale Menghe defeated 158 players (\$365 NLHE) for \$12,798
EVENT #8: Matt Betti defeated 322 players (\$365 NLHE Monster Stack) for \$22,705
EVENT #9: Richard Fitzgerald defeated 281 players (\$580 NLHE) for \$33,720
EVENT #10: Michael Pearson defeated 475 players (\$365 NLHE Main Event) for \$153,191
EVENT #11: Dick Sargent defeated 163 players (\$365 NLHE Turbo) for \$13,203

This was the eleventh gold ring handed out at the Harvey's Lake Tahoe series. One more gold ring and Circuit title are still to come.

All rings at the Harvey's Lake Tahoe series are furnished by [Jostens](#), the official ring supplier of the 2016-2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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