

**2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Harvey's Lake Tahoe
Stateline, Nevada
Event #12
No-Limit Hold'em
Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)
Total Entries: 201
Prize Pool: \$60,300
November 6, 2016**



Rail Support and a Positive Attitude Go a Long Way

Joseph Hilleli takes down Event #12 for his first gold ring in only his second WSOP tournament effort.

Stateline, Nevada (November 7, 2016) – Joseph Hilleli won his first gold ring by surpassing 201 players in Event #12: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry. The tournament took two days to conclude and finished Monday evening with Hilleli as the last man standing, after only taking a couple tries at a WSOP title.

“This is my second event, WSOP event I’ve played, and I’m feeling good with the results,” exclaimed Hilleli.

No matter his experience, the first-place result speaks for itself. Hilleli started playing poker back in his teenage years. The now 29-year-old seemed to still have the spirit and positive attitude of a young soul.

“High school we had the little garage games going,” said Hilleli.

Hilleli has come a long way since his high school garage games. Earning a gold ring and WSOP Circuit title is no easy feat. Hilleli does not play poker full time. In fact, he helps run his family restaurant, which serves kosher, Middle Eastern food. Though he is not a poker professional, Hilleli does aspire to return to the Circuit tour, but only after he processes his recent triumph.

“I need to take this one in first, spend a little of the money, and then I’ll be back,” said Hilleli.

During a large majority of the tournament, Hilleli had some special support from the rail. When asked how much the rail dedication meant to him, Hilleli gratefully responded.

“It meant everything. Every break I told how much I appreciated these two. I couldn’t have done it without them,” Hilleli stated, referencing his friend Dave girlfriend Annie.

With the support of his loved ones, a positive attitude, and a lucky piece of petrified wood for good measure, Hilleli achieved the ultimate, Circuit prize. Along with the gold ring, he also returns to his hometown of San Francisco with \$15,675.

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
EVENT #12: Joseph Hilleli defeated 201 players (\$365 NLHE Re-Entry) for \$15,675

This was the twelfth gold ring handed out at the Harvey's Lake Tahoe series. All twelve Circuit titles have now been claimed.

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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