

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, Indiana

Event #3

Pot-Limit Omaha (Single Re-entry)

Buy-In: \$500 (+\$80)

Total Entries: 126

Prize Pool: \$63,000

October 16-17, 2016



Navin Kamal Wins Rings Five Years Apart in Hammond

Local office manager snags second gold ring on the anniversary of his first

Hammond, Indiana (October 18, 2016) — Navin Kamal is the champion of Event #3 at Horseshoe Hammond, defeating a field of 126 entries to win the \$580 Pot-Limit Omaha event. The victory is Kamal's second on the Circuit, this one coming five years to the day from his first win in the same building. This one earned him the top prize of \$17,639 and 50 points in the race for Casino Champion at this venue.

Kamal is a 43-year-old office manager and former math teacher from Naperville, Illinois. He picked up poker casually at first, as he tells: "Like a lot of people, I started watching on TV. Some of the east-coast tournaments they used to broadcast late at night." That sparked an interest to try it for himself, and he started dabbling in some of the daily turbo events at his local casinos when he had spare time. "I started winning a few of those, and... well... there you go," he said.

The breakthrough performance five years ago was his first tournament cash on record, and it culminated in a Circuit win for more than \$42,000. That victory was in hold'em, the game Kamal considers his primary discipline. "I don't... play PLO... a lot," he said after this anniversary victory, which came in the four-card game. "I'm pretty shocked. Just surprised."

Part of Kamal's shock has to do with his plight on Day 1. He began the tournament with the standard 12,000-chip starting stack, and at the end of the long day, he bagged up exactly that same amount — 12,000 chips. That put him in last place on the leaderboard with 18 players in front of him. "I thought if I had to play three hands and then drive back to Naperville, that was going to suck," he said of the 90-minute drive. "This is PLO, though. You don't need a lot to grow [your stack]."

Kamal found double-suited aces and tripled up very early in the day, and from there it was a relatively steady run to the final table. He began ten-handed play in the middle of the pack, and he soon found himself heads up and severely out-chipped against Oleg Sobol.

Fortunately for Kamal, he had plenty of experience playing the short stack. At one point in the heads-up duel, he was at risk for just 70,000 of the 1,500,000 chips in play, doubling up to stay in contention. He doubled again after that, then again and again, and he eventually turned the tides completely to put Sobol on the ropes with just 90,000 chips. The battle lasted more than three hours before either player could put the other away, and it was Kamal who ended up dealing the final blow to earn the title.

It was an impressive performance for the self-admitted Omaha amateur, and he was slightly critical of his own play in the moments following his win. “I folded three or four clear-cut winners that most PLO players would probably play,” he said. “I was just so short on chips. All’s well that ends well, though. Right?”

Event #3 was the third of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$580 pot-limit Omaha event drew a field of 126 entries, generating a prizepool worth \$63,000. The final 15 players finished in the money.

Day 1 began at 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 16 and concluded at the end of Level 13 with 19 players remaining. Day 2 was held on Monday, October 17 beginning at 3:00 PM, and the last hand was dealt just after midnight.

The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Hammond’s 12 ring events earns the title of 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 limited at-large bids. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

All rings at Horseshoe Hammond are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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