

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, Indiana

Event #4

Monster Stack

Buy-In: \$300 (+65)

Total Entries: 619

Prize Pool: \$185,700

October 17-18, 2016



Erik Anderson Wins His First Major Live Tournament

Chicago native scores another victory for the home team at Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, Indiana (October 19, 2016) — Erik Anderson is the champion of Event #4 at Horseshoe Hammond, defeating a field of 619 players to win the \$365 Monster Stack. The victory is Anderson's first on the Circuit and, in fact, his first live tournament result of any sort. He collected the top prize of \$39,004, his first ring, and 50 points in the race for Casino Champion at this venue.

Anderson is a 31-year-old telecommunications supervisor and a competitive golfer who was born and raised in Chicago. "I'm just a competitive person in general," he said. "Most of my free time is spent on the golf course. I really just played this on a whim. I saw that the Circuit was in town, and I thought I'd come out and try my luck." It's a story that's told often by local and first-time winners on the Circuit.

The champ said he draws heavily on his tournament golf experience at the poker table, too. "Mental patience," he said of the primary crossover between the two games. "Golf is very similar to poker. If you have a bad hole or hit a bad shot, a short memory really benefits you. If you have a bad hand or make a bad call, forget about it and move on. That hand is in the past. Golf is exactly the same."

Anderson did, indeed, have a stretch of bad holes in the middle of this round of poker. Early on Day 2, he got himself short-stacked and all in with deuce-four against pocket tens. Anderson said he was literally starting to walk out the door as the board ran out ace-king-king-jack-jack to give him his money back, with both him and his opponent playing the five cards on board.

That save sparked a furious comeback, and he was soon seated at the final table with the second-largest of the 10 remaining stacks. About six hours later, he eliminated Art Harb in third place, taking a 10:1 chip lead into the heads-up duel against local favorite Yousri Ali. The latter managed to double his short stack a couple times, but he could not fully recover from the deficit. Anderson soon collected the last of the chips, earning his first ring in his first-ever try.

Despite the flash of success, Anderson certainly doesn't plan on changing his occupation in the foreseeable future. "I don't think poker would be a good day job for me," he laughed. "Too stressful, long hours. I don't know if I could deal with the swings. I'll stick to my eight-to-five."

Event #4 was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event drew a field of 619 players, generating a prizepool worth \$185,700. The final 63 players finished in the money.

Day 1 began at 12:00 PM on Monday, October 17 and concluded at the end of Level 21 with 39 players remaining. Day 2 was held on Tuesday, October 18 beginning at 2:00 PM, and the last hand was dealt around 1:00 AM the following morning.

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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For additional information please contact:

Eric Ramsey (WSOP Media Coordinator) at eric_ramsey@me.com.