

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Hammond

Hammond, Indiana

Event #9

The Main Event

Buy-In: \$1,500 (+\$175)

Total Entries: 1,308

Prize Pool: \$1,962,000

October 21-24, 2016



Dylan Linde Breaks Through at Horseshoe Hammond

Idaho pro scores a defining victory in one of the Circuit's largest-ever Main Events

Hammond, Indiana (October 25, 2016) – Dylan Linde is the newest champion on the WSOP Circuit, outlasting a huge field of 1,308 entries to claim the Main Event title at Horseshoe Hammond. Linde's performance earned him his first gold ring, the top prize of \$348,269, and a reserved seat in the 2017 WSOP Global Casino Championship.

Linde is a 35-year-old professional poker player from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He grew up playing video games and strategic card games, so poker was a relatively easy transition. "I was in college for six and a half years doing... nothing," he said. "I stumbled into it." Linde and fellow-Idahoan Kevin MacPhee became close friends along the way, and the two of them started to learn and progress in the game together. At first, they were mostly just chasing bonuses from online poker sites. "I was just folding every hand to try to get the hundred bucks," Linde laughed. "Hell yeah, free hundred dollars? Thank you. But I'm so competitive that, eventually..." he let the thought hang.

Eventually, Linde started to spend more time playing tournaments, both live and online, and he soon built enough of a foundation to feel comfortable pursuing the game in a more serious way. His tournament stat sheet is full of results over the past decade, but none of them, to date, have been nearly as profitable as this one. This victory moves him well into seven figures in career live tournament earnings and into second place on Idaho's all-time money list. There's still, however, quite a gap between him and the leader on that list — Kevin MacPhee.

"This is fantastic," a smiley Linde started his postgame interviews. "It's nice to finally win a live tournament. I haven't really had that much success live. I've had a lot of, like, 8th- through 18th-place finishes." Not only is this Linde's first significant live victory, it's also his largest score ever, including some big results online.

It certainly didn't come easy for the champ. Linde had a bit of a slow start out of the gate, and he needed all four of his available entries to advance to Day 2. "Four bullets," he said. "Max pain. I

busted my first two super fast on Day 1A. On Day 1B, I had stayed up really late and played this really good mixed game here. So I came back with no sleep.” Linde’s third bullet misfired nine minutes before the dinner break, and said he was pleased that he could at least beat the rush to the exit. He returned for his last entry after the break, and things finally started to click. “I came back after dinner and, yeah... bagged up one-twenty,” he said, as if it was the easiest thing in the world.

He was still in the middle of the pack by the time Day 2 ended with 28 players remaining, and he slowly picked his way through the remaining field as Day 3 whittled down toward the final table. He was seventh in chips with 10 players left, then got very lucky to stay alive with nine players remaining.

Linde first got his last 13 big blinds into the middle preflop with ace-jack, running into Brad Albrinck’s pocket jacks. The ace-jack-four flop left Linde dead to an ace, but he managed to find one of them on the river, as the Ace of Hearts peeled off to save his tournament life. The next level, he got himself in trouble again, this time running his pocket kings into Michael Campbell’s pocket aces. It takes a fair bit of luck to win a tournament, though, and Linde had a lot of good fortune on his side in this hand, flopping kings full of treys to once again stave off elimination.

Linde eventually found himself heads-up with Arif Rahim, a local high-stakes cash game grinder who was on a freeroll thanks to a promotional giveaway in the poker room. He had a big group of his local friends on the rail, while Linde was all alone at the table — a bit of an outsider on Rahim’s home turf. The two had a small amount of history together from the cash games downstairs, and Linde exuded a lot of respect for his opponent’s game after the fact. “I watched him play all day, and he was the player I least wanted to get heads-up with,” he said. “He’s a very, very good deep-stack player.”

The local grinder began the heads-up match holding nearly a 3:1 chip lead, but Linde made relatively quick work of erasing that deficit. About 90 minutes into the duel, Linde had Rahim on the ropes, and although the latter doubled up a couple times, he ultimately could not fend off defeat. On the final hand, Rahim took his stand with ten-three of spades, and Linde’s ace-seven ended up best as the board ran out full of blanks.

Linde has spent most of the last few years playing primarily in Europe, but he said he’s recently decided to spend more time exploring the broad slate of events on his home soil. This was, in fact, the first WSOP Circuit event he’s ever played, and so far, he’s batting a thousand in his Circuit career. “You’ll see a lot more of me in the American tournaments from now on,” he said. “Tournaments are like a drug.”

The Main Event was the ninth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Hammond. The \$1,675 no-limit hold'em event attracted 1,308 entries, making it the seventh-largest Main Event in Circuit history. The \$1,962,000 prizepool was shared by the final 135 players.

The tournament featured two starting flights beginning Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22. Flight A drew 579 entries and advanced 106 players, while Flight B drew 729 entries and advanced 157 players. Both flights began at 12:00 PM and logged 15 levels of play.

The combined Day 2 restarted Sunday, October 23 at 12:00 PM with 263 players. The money bubble burst during Level 18 (~3:15 PM) and play wrapped up for the night with 28 players remaining at the end of Level 25 (~12:00 AM).

Day 3 began Monday, October 24 at 12:00 p.m., and the tournament concluded right around midnight.

The final table began during Level 29, with 30,000/60,000 blinds and a 10,000 ante. Here were the seating assignments, chip counts, and stack sizes in big blinds:

Seat 1: Dylan Linde	1,735,000	29 bb
Seat 2: Brad Albrinck	2,260,000	38 bb
Seat 3: Zach Rieselman	9,245,000	154 bb
Seat 4: Nicola DiTrapani	1,440,000	24 bb
Seat 5: Michael Campbell	2,320,000	39 bb
Seat 6: Arif Rahim	4,380,000	73 bb
Seat 7: Ben Keeline	2,440,000	41 bb
Seat 8: Ronnie Sewell	1,190,000	20 bb
Seat 9: David Hengen	1,150,000	19 bb

1st place: Dylan Linde (\$348,269)

Hometown: Coeur d'Alene, ID Occupation: poker player
WSOP earnings: \$305,409
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$348,269

2nd place: Arif Rahim (\$215,820)

Hometown: Skokie, IL Occupation: poker player
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$215,820

3rd place: Zach Rieselmann (\$158,392)

Hometown: Independence, KY Occupation: poker player
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$158,392

4th place: Ronnie Sewell (\$119,682)

Hometown: Shelby, NC Occupation: not given
WSOP earnings: \$23,860
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$215,084 (1 ring)

5th place: Brad Albrinck (\$91,331)

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH Occupation: engineer
WSOP earnings: \$49,516
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$446,268

6th place: Nicola DiTrapani (\$70,298)

Hometown: Streamwood, IL Occupation: tile installer
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$100,337 (1 ring)

7th place: Ben Keeline (\$54,740)

Hometown: Westminster, CO Occupation: poker player
WSOP earnings: \$1,048,125 (1 bracelet)
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$426,412 (1 ring)

8th place: David Henge (\$43,125)

Hometown: Omaha, NE Occupation: not given
WSOP earnings: \$24,675
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$120,758 (1 ring)

9th place: Michael Campbell (\$34,374)

Hometown: Rapid City, SD Occupation: not given
WSOP earnings: \$0
WSOP Circuit earnings: \$43,531

Other ring winners who finished in the money included Michael Hahn (132nd place), John McCoy (131st), Marshall White (127th), Shiva Dudani (126th), Derek Schroeder (122nd), Robert Chow (119th), Fadi Hamad (118th), Bob Beck (117), Stephen Nussrallah (111th), Steve Karp (95th), James Juvancic (87th), Robert Kuhn (86th), Ralph Massey (83rd), Andy Spears (79th), Aaron Massey (66th), Bryan Dillon (54th), William Graham (32nd), Scott Fitzhugh (29th), Matthew Chang (27th), Kou Vang (15th), Jonathan Hilton (10th), David Hengen (8th), Ben Keeline (7th), Nicola DiTrapani (6th), Brad Albrinck (5th), and Ronnie Sewell (4th).

Here is the full list of gold ring winners from Horseshoe Hammond:

Event #1: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Re-entry	2,121 entries	Jason Ramos	\$97,016
Event #2: \$580 No-Limit Hold'em	221 entries	Alin Cotoalan	\$27,627
Event #3: \$580 Pot-Limit Omaha	126 entries	Navin Kamal	\$17,639
Event #4: \$365 Monster Stack	619 entries	Erik Anderson	\$39,004
Event #5: \$580 H.O.R.S.E.	116 entries	Kenny Jackson	\$17,399
Event #6: \$580 Six-Max	232 entries	John Holley	\$31,318
Event #7: \$1,125 No-Limit Hold'em	149 entries	John McCoy	\$41,720
Event #8: \$365 Omaha Hi-Lo	163 entries	Joe Brandenburg	\$13,204
Event #9: Main Event	1,308 entries	Dylan Linde	\$348,269
Event #11: \$365 Bounty No-Limit Hold'em	269 entries	Nate Crawford	\$13,178
Event #12: \$5,300 High Roller	83 entries	Ravi Raghavan	\$132,798
Event #13: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Turbo	183 entries	Matt Lambrecht	\$14,275

Ravi Raghavan earned the title of Casino Champion at Horseshoe Hammond, after one of the most memorable days the Circuit has seen. Raghavan finished 16th in the Main Event for \$22,583, then joined the High Roller just before registration closed. He won it, earning his first gold ring and the top prize of \$132,798. Thanks to an additional min-cash in Event #1 (\$808), Raghavan accumulated a total of 72.5 points and \$152,225 in combined winnings, edging local grinder Art Harb by 2.5 points for the title just as the series concluded. His performance secures him one of the limited seats in the 2017 WSOP Global Casino Championship.

All players who cashed in ring events earned points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of the limited 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.

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

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