2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Palm Beach Kennel Club
West Palm Beach, Fla.
Event #1
Monster Stack (30-minute levels)
Buy-In: $300 (+$65)
Total Entries: 474
Prize Pool: $142,200
February 9-10, 2017

Pedro Aldave Plays the Role of Spoiler, Wins Opening Event

Argentinian soccer agent denies Martin Ryan a fourth ring, claims the first of his own career

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 10, 2017) — For a long while, it looked like Martin Ryan was going to cruise to his fourth WSOP Circuit victory in the span of three months. Riding this unforgettable heater, Ryan defeated every player in the field expect for one, and he was in control of more than half the total chips in play with five left as he closed in on the seemingly inevitable.

Pedro Aldave proved to be too much in the end, though. Aldave is the champion of Event #1 at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, defeating Ryan and the field of 474 entries to earn his first gold ring. In addition to the jewelry, he collected the top prize of $30,574 and 50 points toward the race for seats in the Global Casino Championship.

The champ is a 48-year-old soccer agent from Argentina, though he now makes his part-time home in nearby Hallandale Beach, Florida. "I travel the world for work, but I'm a fan of poker," he said. "I play poker everywhere I go for my job, every time it's possible." Aldave has posted a few small live results over the past few years, but this one is by far the largest, more than doubling his career tournament earnings.

In addition to the spoiler storyline, Aldave also wrote his own chapter in the book about how to win poker tournaments with a short stack. He entered Day 2 at the bottom of the chip counts, sitting in 11th place with that many players remaining. Aldave was undeterred, though, bringing a clear game plan with him for the final day. "Don't get involved in every hand," he said. "Try to take my opportunities. Run good, but I think play good — I think my strategy is good, too."

With 30-minute levels, the pace of Day 2 eliminations was brisk, and Aldave soon found himself heads-up against Ryan for the ring. Where his selectivity had benefitted him before, Aldave now realized the need to change gears. "For most of the time, I was very passive," he explained. "Now in the heads-up: aggressive!"

True to his word, Aldave was the one driving the action during the final duel, and he quickly overcame a 2:1 chip deficit to even the score. About a half hour into the match, the two men played for stacks,

getting all the chips into the middle on the turn of a queen-high board. Ryan had a combo draw with his suited connectors, while Aldave's top pair had him one card from the title. The river was a blank, the Jack of Hearts, and Aldave's victory was secure.

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Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The $365 Monster Stack no-limit hold'em event drew a field of 474 players, generating a prize pool worth $142,200. The final 54 players finished in the money.

The tournament began Thursday, February 9 at 12 p.m., and Day 1 concluded with 11 players remaining after Level 25 — around 2 a.m. The unscheduled Day 2 was held on Friday, February 10 beginning at 2 p.m., and the last hand was dealt just before 6 p.m.

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The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Palm Beach Kennel Club'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 the Palm Beach Kennel Club are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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