

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Palm Beach Kennel Club

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Event #8

Monster Stack

Buy-In: \$300 (+\$65)

Total Entries: 401

Prize Pool: \$120,300

February 15-16, 2017



David Katz Wins Monster Stack in West Palm Beach

Retired dentist scores \$26,466 and his first gold ring

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 16, 2017) — David Katz is the newest winner at the World Series of Poker Circuit Palm Beach Kennel Club. Katz defeated a big field of 401 entries in the \$365 Monster Stack, earning his first gold ring and \$26,466 in cash.

The champ is a recreational player and a retired dentist who recently relocated to South Florida from New Jersey. He's only been playing poker for a few years, learning the game in preparation for his retirement. "As I started slowing down with work, I started picking up a couple different hobbies," he said. "And this one was an interesting one, especially with my proximity to Atlantic City."

It took two entries for Katz to succeed, though the second try was in jeopardy for a bit. He was short-stacked with about 10 big blinds on the money bubble, but he employed a patient game plan, as he explained in his postgame interviews. "There are plenty of opportunities where I could have shoved and crossed my fingers," he said. "But you have to develop a little bit of an instinct."

Those instincts allowed him to cross the threshold of the money bubble, and he went on a bit of a late-night rush to end Day 1 in 12th place with 23 players remaining. By the time they reached the final table on Day 2, he was sixth of ten, and he eventually found himself heads-up and out-chipped against David Gutfreund.

Gutfreund opened up his lead during the early stages of the match, but Katz would not go down without a fight. The final two players battled for more than two hours before deciding it with nearly even stacks. Katz's king-nine beat Gutfreund's king-six on the final hand to give him the victory.

"I've become something of a student of the game," Katz said as he posed for the winner's photos. "It's nice to win one for the older guys every so often. You can incorporate some the more aggressive, younger-player techniques into the old tried-and-true ones."

Katz is married with two children, and his other hobbies include serving as a referee for United States swimming. This result is the largest of his tournament career, and it comes with a piece of jewelry to

mark the occasion. “For me, it’s almost a personal validation that I’ve reached a certain level,” he said. “That I can hold my own. I’m certainly not ready to conquer the world, but...”

Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 Monster Stack event drew a field of 401 entries, generating a prize pool worth \$120,300. The final 45 players finished in the money.

Day 1 began Wednesday, February 15 at 12 p.m., and action was suspended with 23 players remaining at the end of Level 21. Day 2 began Thursday, February 16 at 2 p.m., and the last hand was dealt around 1 a.m. the following morning.

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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