

## **2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit**

**Season 13**

**Palm Beach Kennel Club**

**West Palm Beach, Fla.**

**Event #10**

**Turbo No-Limit Hold'em**

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

**Total Entries: 164**

**Prize Pool: \$49,200**

**February 16, 2017**



## **Stepas Tindziulis Crosses the Ocean to Win a Ring**

**Lithuanian pro turns American vacation into a Circuit victory and \$13,284 in cash**

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 16, 2017)** — Stepas Tindziulis had his sights set on winning Event #9 at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, but he was eliminated from that \$1k event early in the day. Fortunately, there was a Turbo running that afternoon, Event #10, and Tindziulis jumped straight in just before the close of registration. By the end of the night, he was sitting alone with all the chips, posing for photos with his first gold ring.

Tindziulis is a 30-year-old professional poker player from the European capital city of Vilnius, Lithuania. He primarily plays online, and this live result represents his most significant one to date. He's been dabbling in poker since college, though.

“At the time, I was studying at University, and I was into sports really seriously,” he said. “Almost at an Olympic level.” Tindziulis is a modern pentathlete, specializing in the sport that combines fencing, swimming, show jumping, pistol shooting, and cross-country running. “I wasn't on the National team, so I had no money. I had seen poker on Eurosport for the first time, and I figured I would give it a try online.”

Tindziulis' online career began with a freeroll victory for a few bucks, and within a couple months, he was playing \$100 tournaments and larger without ever having to deposit. When asked what brought an online grinder to this part of the world for a live poker tournament, Tindziulis just laughed.

“My buddies were in Mexico hanging out, and I was really craving a sunny day because it's winter in Lithuania right now,” he said. “I contacted them, and they told me they are going to Cuba. I said, ‘That's a good idea. I want to go too.’ And they said, ‘Oh yeah, there's a Circuit event nearby too, in West Palm Beach.’” Tindziulis turned his palms up and shrugged as if the rest of the story is self-explanatory.

The crew spent about two weeks in Cuba before making the short flight to South Florida to continue their vacation. “We went to Miami, tried the beaches and all the other stuff for a few days, then we came here to play poker,” he said.

It turned out to be quite a profitable decision. Three of his fellow countrymen cashed in events at this series, one of them made a final table, and now Tindziulis has a WSOP Circuit ring to bring back home to Lithuania.

In his postgame interviews, the champ seemed duly pleased with his own performance. “I basically made no mistakes, I guess,” he said. “Maybe one minor mistake one or two levels before the bubble. I had no hands; I was short on chips all day. But I got lucky in flips, and I got hot at the right time.”

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Event #10 was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Palm Beach Kennel Club. The \$365 Turbo event drew a field of 164 entries, generating a prize pool worth \$49,200. The final 18 players finished in the money.

The tournament was essentially held from start to finish in one day, beginning Thursday, February 16 at 4 p.m. The last hand was dealt around 2 a.m. the following morning.

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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](http://WSOP.com).

All rings at the Palm Beach Kennel Club are furnished by [Jostens](http://Jostens), the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or visit [WSOP.com](http://WSOP.com).

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