

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

The Bicycle Hotel and Casino

Bell Gardens, Ca.

Event #10

No-Limit Hold'em High Roller

Buy-In: \$1,000 (+\$125)

Total Entries: 103

Prize Pool: \$103,000

March 14-15, 2017



Mike Leah Wins Fifth Ring in Bike Bounty

Canadian poker pro earns 15 bounties en route to fifth ring, \$12,450 and the lead in the Casino Championship

Bell Gardens, Ca. (March 15, 2017) — Mike Leah has enough rings to fill up his entire hand after earning his fifth career World Series of Poker Circuit ring on Wednesday evening. Leah won the \$1,125 no-limit hold'em bounty event by besting a field of 103 entries to win \$12,450.

His fifth ring comes on the three-year anniversary of when Leah won his first two rings, in the same day, at the Bicycle Casino.

“It’s pretty cool to win a ring on the exact same day as I did three years ago at the same place,” said Leah. “So, it’s pretty cool.”

Leah did his best to pull off that same feat again and registered for the final event of the series, a \$365 no-limit hold'em turbo one-day event, while he was still playing his final table. He was finishing off his win, while his stack in the turbo was blinding out. He wasn't able to accomplish another double ring day and busted his stack on one of his breaks from the final table.

Leah is a top pro, who is consistently in the hunt for World Series of Poker Player of the year award. He is generally among the players eligible to buy-in to the Global Casino Championship for \$10,000. But after a strong start to his first few Circuit stops, he decided to make a run at qualifying via the Circuit.

“I don’t really play that many Circuit events,” said Leah. “I just pick and choose a few that are close to me both time and location-wise. This year though, I had enough points to just try and qualify into the Global Championship. I could buy-in, but I decided I should try and save \$10,000.”

“So, I played a few more recently. It’s nice to actually win something when you decide to play a bunch instead of wasting time and money.”

Leah is coming off another repeat feat when he won a major tournament in Canada in consecutive years and three times in the last four last month. During that run, he went through old social media posts from his win to get himself motivated for another deep run. For this

experience, he didn't use social media to motivate himself. It was social media that reminded him about the anniversary.

"I obviously wanted to win this for many reasons," said Leah. "I wanted to win my fifth ring. That's a cool number. I'm starting to get up there in terms of numbers and I also wanted to have enough points to get into the Global Championship. And I saw on WSOP.com that if I won, I would win Casino Champion, likely.

"And then Facebook just popped up and reminded me. I didn't know that it was three years ago today it happened. I had one of those memory things that told me that three years ago today, I won two rings. It just made me want to win more. It just gave me extra motivation, I was extra focused and that definitely can't hurt."

Along with the first place money and the ring, Leah picked up a hefty sum of bounties. Including keeping his own bounty, he earned 15 total and knocked out the four players that joined him on the last day of the event.

"I just had a big stack most of the tournament," said Leah. "So, it was easy to just put myself in spots where I could get bounties."

With each bounty being worth \$500, Leah earned an extra \$7,500 and took just shy of \$20,000 back to Canada. With the bounties being such a big portion of the buy-in, Leah felt players should be gambling a little more to pick up the bounties.

"The bounties are 50% of the buy-in," said Leah. "So, you should. Bounty tournaments are a lot of fun. 15 bounties out of 103 entries? Yeah, that's a lot of fun."

Along with the money and the ring, Leah earns 50 points towards the Casino Champion race. The 50 points at least temporarily puts him in the lead for the Casino Champion title with 70 points, but with two more events to finish up, there are still a few players that can catch him. The winner of the Casino Championship will earn an automatic seat into the Global Casino Championship this August in Cherokee, North Carolina.

This was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The \$1,125 no-limit hold'em bounty attracted 103 entries. The total prize pool came to \$103,000 and the top 12 finishers were paid.

The tournament began on Tuesday, March 14 at noon and the final table was reached around 10:30 p.m. The played until just after midnight with 5 players surviving the first day. They returned on Wednesday, March 15 to play down to a winner. The final hand was dealt around 5:30 p.m., making the total duration of the finale about six and a half hours.

Here is the list of gold ring winners from the Bicycle Hotel and Casino:

EVENT #1: Fredrick Arni defeated 1,472 players (\$365 NLH Monster Stack) for \$87,010
EVENT #2: William Wolf defeated 127 players (\$365 NLH) for \$10,665
EVENT #3: Danny Illingworth defeated 121 players (\$580 NLH) for \$16,495
EVENT #4: Joseph Hoffman defeated 123 players (\$365 Omaha H/L) for \$10,330
EVENT #5: Albert Ng defeated 187 players (\$365 NLH) for \$15,585
EVENT #6: Neil Ho defeated 198 players (\$365 NLH Six-Max) for \$16,345

EVENT #7: Joe Marcal defeated 183 players (\$365 NLH) for \$14,275

EVENT #8: Dylan Wilkerson defeated 705 players (\$1,675 NLH Main Event) for \$216,790

EVENT #9: Gal Yifrach defeated 100 players (\$3,250 NLH High Roller) for \$90,005

EVENT #10: Mike Leah defeated 103 players (\$1,125 NLH Bounty) for \$12,450

The player who accumulates the most overall points during the Bike's 12 combined gold ring tournaments earns the title 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 60 expected at-large National Championship bids awarded to the top point earners throughout the season. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, be sure to follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](https://twitter.com/WSOP) or check out WSOP.com.

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