

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

**Season 13**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Event #1**

**Monster Stack**

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

**Total Entries: 411**

**Prize Pool: \$123,300**

**April 27-28, 2017**



## **Riding a Heater, Nick Verderamo Wins Opening Event**

**Local actuary starts the series with a big score, already eyeing up Casino Championship**

**BALTIMORE, Md. (Apr. 28, 2017)** — It's a story that's been written so many times in the history of the WSOP Circuit, it's almost not surprising anymore. Every so often, a player defends his title in a ring event or takes down the tournament they came tantalizingly close to winning the year prior.

Nick Verderamo is the most recent player to pull off that feat, conquering the series' opening event to claim his first ring and the top prize of \$27,126. His victory comes one year removed from a fourth-place finish in the same event and hot on the heels of a career-best score earlier in the week.

Verderamo is a 26-year-old actuary who lives here in the Baltimore area. He studied his trade at the University of Connecticut, graduating in 2012 and jumping straight into his field of expertise full-time. He's been playing poker his whole life, too, learning the game from his late grandfather as he was growing up.

The champ got off to a hot start in this event, running up a big stack early on. "I thought our table was pretty poor to start off," he said bluntly. "I stacked up to 200k in the very early levels, and then I just avoided confrontation with some of the better players and some of the bigger stacks. I was able to steal blinds and antes when I needed. I got the money in in good spots." That's precisely the recipe for success in tournament poker.

The 441-entry starting field was trimmed to 25 survivors over the course of Day 1, and Verderamo finished the day just inside the overnight top ten. By the time the final nine players combined around the final table on Day 2, he was second in chips and the only immediate threat to Kevin Elia's chip lead. Elia ran poorly from there on out, though, falling in fifth place and leaving a vacancy atop the leaderboard.

Verderamo stepped up to fill that spot, turning on the afterburners in the after-dinner levels. "I was on a heater the last 30-45 minutes," he said after the win. "Really, once we hit five-handed after the dinner break, I was on fire. I ran much better this time than I did earlier in the week." His final table run-good included beating pocket kings with ace-queen and cracking pocket aces with king-jack suited.

The previous result Verderamo is referring to was a career-best that he accomplished just a few days ago — a significant five-figure score for a runner-up finish in a big \$1,100 event on the other side of the city. The two results combined netted him just shy of \$100,000 for the week.

Despite his recent run of success, Verderamo has no plans to make poker his full-time occupation. “I love my job, I love my coworkers,” he said. “I like tournaments a lot more than cash, and I’m not sure tournaments alone are a sustainable future. So I like it on the side.”

Though poker is nothing more than a hobby for now, Verderamo takes as many opportunities as he can to play tournaments in the area — “anything from \$365 to \$3k,” as he says. This 12-day series of events provides a good opportunity for him to put in some extended hours on the felt, and he plans to do just that. “My goal this year was to try to win [Casino Champion],” he said, “so I’ll be playing most of the events.”

There’s a long to go, but Verderamo is well on his way to realizing that goal. The win gives him the early lead with 50 points on the Casino Champion leaderboard at Horseshoe Baltimore.

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Event #1 was the first of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 Monster Stack no-limit hold’em event drew a field of 411 players, generating a prize pool worth \$123,300. The final 45 players finished in the money.

The tournament began Thursday, April 27 at 11 a.m., and Day 1 concluded around midnight with 25 players remaining at the end of Level 21. Day 2 was held on Friday, April 27 beginning at 2 p.m., and the last hand was dealt around 10 p.m.

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The player who accumulates the most overall points during Horseshoe Baltimore’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 Horseshoe Baltimore 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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