

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Baltimore

Baltimore, Md.

Event #2

No-Limit Hold'em (30-minute levels)

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

Total Entries: 291

Prize Pool: \$87,300

April 28, 2017



Dennis Tsai Wins \$365 One-Day Event

Local finance pro turns his last few big blinds into a gold ring and nearly \$21k in cash

BALTIMORE, Md. (Apr. 28, 2017) — Dennis Tsai is the newest winner on the WSOP Circuit. Tsai took down the one-day \$365 No-Limit Hold'em event, defeating a field of 291 entries to win the gold ring and the top prize of \$20,950.

Tsai is a 30-year-old finance professional from the local area. “I just play poker on the side,” he said. “Mostly tournaments. I’ve had some luck in tournaments, so I sort of stick with it.”

After experiencing good success online, Tsai transitioned into a live tournament player, and he’s starting to accumulate some results in the brick-and-mortar realm, too. He finished as the runner-up in the very first WSOP Circuit event ever held at Horseshoe Baltimore in 2015 — “That was... nice... and very annoying,” he said — and he’s cashed in two of the three Main Events held at this property to date.

Tsai had to endure a bit of a rough start to his Event #2 run. “Today was crazy,” he said after the win. “I bought in three times, and I almost didn’t buy-in the third time.” He did fire a third bullet, though, and it ended up being quite a profitable decision. Tsai doubled up just before dinner to claw back to average, then went on an after-dinner rush as the bubble approached.

Things started to unravel bit once the field crossed into the money, though. Tsai ran ace-king into pocket aces, had pocket kings cracked by pocket sevens, and ran ace-jack into ace-queen all within the span of a couple levels. That last loss knocked him all the way down to just five big blinds, but Tsai maneuvered his short stack with a deft hand.

“Shove, shove, shove,” he said. “Got some stacks back. Everything went well after that. After I had five bigs, it was all good,” he laughed. His fortunes turned around a bit at the final table, and he was able to win two huge pots to propel him toward the eventual victory.

In four-handed play, Tsai doubled up with pocket fours against pocket threes, and he found pocket aces against ace-eight to eliminate Brian Bailey in third place and take a big lead into the heads-up duel against Karlis Siljakovs III.

Siljakovs would not go quietly, though. He doubled back into contention on the first hand of the match and even worked his way into the chip lead at one point. Tsai battled back valiantly, though, and Siljakovs ended up bluffing off his stack with king-ten after Tsai flopped an ace with ace-ten suited. Tsai correctly snap-called a flop shove, and two blanks later, it was all over with Tsai holding the ring.

When asked what his plans are for the rest of the series, Tsai wasn't quite ready to commit. "It was actually to-be-determined based on what happened today," he said. "I have been running kinda like shit — er, crap — and it was kinda like, 'Let's just see how today goes.'"

The day went rather well, indeed, and Tsai is a big favorite to return for more ring and points hunting later in the week.

Event #2 was the second of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em event featured 30-minute levels, and it drew a field of 291 entries to create a prizepool worth \$87,300. That money was shared by the final 30 players.

The tournament was held from start to finish on Friday, April 28 beginning at 11 a.m. The last hand was dealt just before 3:00 a.m.

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.

All rings at Horseshoe Baltimore are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

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