

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

**Season 13**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Event #4**

**No-Limit Hold'em Re-Entry**

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

**Total Entries: 657**

**Prize Pool: \$197,100**

**April 30-May 2, 2017**



## **Cory Smith Breaks Through For First Ring in Baltimore**

**New traveling pro dodges another close call, wins re-entry event for \$40k**

**BALTIMORE, Md. (May 3, 2017)** — After a season full of near-misses, Cory “Gray” Smith has broken through for a victory on the WSOP Circuit. Smith outlasted a field of 657 entries in the \$365 re-entry event at Horseshoe Baltimore, winning his first ring and the top prize of \$40,414.

The champ is a 41-year-old business owner from Oklahoma City. “Extremely busy,” he describes himself succinctly. He’s only been playing poker since about 2005, and only seriously for the past couple years. “My goal was that once my daughter graduated and went to college, I’d take one year off and just see if I can do it,” he said. “That’s this year.”

After posting results regularly for the past few years, Smith has dedicated a little more of his time to tournament poker in 2017, and the transition has started off swimmingly. He began the year with a final table appearance in the Monster Stack event at Choctaw, earning a career-best score of more than \$20,000. Two weeks later, he set a new personal best, finishing as the runner-up in the Horseshoe Tunica Main Event for a significant six-figure payout.

Smith went on to make another final table at the Tulsa stop in March, but his first Circuit victory had eluded him until now. This payout of more than \$40,000 represents the second-largest of his short career as a semi-professional player, and it moves him across the \$250,000-mark in total earnings. The vast majority of that has been earned over the first five months of this young year.

Poker tournaments are seldom easy, but things went about as smoothly as possible for Smith over the course of this event. He advanced through the Day 1B flight with a big stack, entering Day 2 in fourth place with 79 players remaining. He was the chip leader by the final table was set, and he never relinquished the top spot from there on out.

“When you get a massive chip lead,” he said, “you gotta make people — you know how it is, people have to have it. You have to put pressure on them.” Smith did just that at the final table, and he was soon heads-up with a huge chip lead against Jeremy Bittan. The duel lasted just one hand, with Smith turning two pair with king-five suited to beat Bittan’s lone pair of aces.

In addition to the tangible prizes, Smith also collected 50 points in the race for seats to the WSOP Global Casino Championship, bringing his total for the season to 152.5 and all but locking up his spot in the season-ending event. “That’s why I came here — to chase the points,” he said. “I thought if I could come snap off something here, I’d be good. And it happened.”

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Event #4 was the fourth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 re-entry event began with four starting flights spread over two days on April 30 and May 1. Day 1A drew 173 entries (24 advanced), Day 1B drew 126 (15), Day 1C drew 199 (22), and Day 1D drew 159 (18) to bring the total field to 657 entries. That generated a prizepool worth \$197,100 which was shared by the final 72 players.

The 79 Day 1 survivors returned for Day 2 on Tuesday, May 2 beginning at 12 p.m., and the last hand was dealt just before midnight.

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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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