

2016/2017 World Series of Poker Circuit

Season 13

Horseshoe Baltimore

Baltimore, Md.

Event #6

No-Limit Hold'em Six-Max

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

Total Entries: 186

Prize Pool: \$55,800

May 3-4, 2017



George Rowe Wins Six-Max at Horseshoe Baltimore

Retired Virginia fisherman lands a ring and \$15k for two days of work

BALTIMORE, Md. (May 5, 2017) — George Rowe is the newest first-time winner on the WSOP Circuit. Rowe outlasted a field of 186 entries to win the \$365 six-max event at Horseshoe Baltimore, collecting his first gold ring and a career-best payday of \$15,348.

The champ is a 60-year-old retired fisherman from Gloucester, Virginia — just across the river from Williamsburg and Yorktown. “I’ve worked in the water most of my life,” he said. “Scallopin’, oysterin’, crabbin’, fishin’... traveling up and down the coast with my father.”

An accident on the job in 2011 left Rowe in rough shape, though. He injured his back, and some complications thereafter ultimately led to him being placed into a coma for 16 days. “They gave me a two percent chance to make it,” he said. “That was six years ago.”

Rowe was 54 at the time of the injury, and he took it as his cue to take a bit of a step back. “That was the end of work,” he said. “Now I thoroughly take advantage of every opportunity to do something I love to do every day.”

That means fishing on most days, but every now and then, it means a game of poker, too. “I love coming up here,” he said. “I was so glad to see they had tournaments running. You meet so many good people. It’s just such a great bunch.”

Rowe has been playing the game since he was just a boy, learning the rules from his family’s social group. “I used to be around a bunch of friends of mine,” he explained. “The older people played poker, and some of them would drink too much, so I’d sit down and play their hands for them. That’s how I learned.”

The games were different back then, but Rowe has done his best to adapt to the new forms of poker, too. “When Texas Hold’em came about, I noticed you have to have a lot of patience,” he said. “It really is a game of patience.”

Rowe's patience was on display fairly deep in the tournament when his stack was decimated down to just 5,000 chips — half a starting stack and barely a single big blind — in Level 16 of the day. He doubled up on consecutive hands to spark the comeback, though, and he entered the six-handed final table essentially tied for the chip lead a short while later.

He held that lead for a long while, but Ian Davis started to pull away from his final two opponents during three-handed play. Rowe eliminated Luke Springer in third place, though, taking Springer's chips into the heads-up match with Davis. A few hands in, Rowe landed a big pot to inch into the lead, and the match was over a few hands thereafter.

Rowe credits his friend and mentor, Randy, for helping teach him the finer points of the game, and Randy was the first to send his congratulations via text message. "I know these young guns play hard," Rowe said. "but some of us older guys play smart."

Regarding the rest of the week, Rowe said he'll be back at Horseshoe Baltimore for the Seniors Event on Sunday, but that's as much poker as he's willing to commit to for the near future. "Striper season just came in at home," he smiled.

Event #6 was the sixth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Six-Max event drew a field of 186 entries, generating a prize pool worth \$55,800. The final 21 players finished in the money.

The tournament began Wednesday, May 3 at 11 a.m., and Day 1 concluded with three players remaining at the end of Level 21 — around 2 a.m. Day 2 was held on Thursday, May 4 beginning at 2 p.m., and the last hand was dealt just before 6:30 p.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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