

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

**Season 13**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Event #8**

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

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

**Total Entries: 140**

**Prize Pool: \$42,000**

**May 4-5, 2017**



## **Robert Hankins Wins Ring Number Eight!**

**Tennessee pro wins for the fourth time the season, nearing all-time lead**

**BALTIMORE, Md. (May 6, 2017)** — The WSOP Circuit season is winding down, and this one has been as memorable as any in the tour's 13-year history. For the first 12 of those, no player was able to win four times in a single season. Three players have done it already this year.

Robert Hankins is the most recent man to accomplish the feat, collecting his fourth ring of the season at Horseshoe Baltimore on Friday. The win is also the eighth overall for the pro from Chattanooga, which puts him into a tie for third-most and just two off the all-time lead.

Hankins' run over the past season or so has been the stuff of legends. His rise to Circuit stardom began with his first victory in Tunica in 2010. It was another four years before he won his second, returning to Tunica in 2014 and duplicating his feat from the previous trip. He went on to win one more ring apiece in each of the next two seasons.

Hankins, 37, got his fifth ring early in this current season at Horseshoe Southern Indiana, but he was apparently discontent with the once-per-year pace of his victories. Just a couple days later, he won the Main Event at that property, snagging ring number six and a career-best payout of more than \$140,000. He collected number seven less than a month ago at Harrah's Cherokee, and he didn't have to wait long at all to add to his collection once again.

Ring number eight came in the \$365 no-limit hold'em event at Horseshoe Baltimore. The pace was quick, with 30-minute levels for the duration, and the 140-entry starting field was trimmed to 11 survivors over the course of Day 1.

Hankins was third in chips when the field reconvened for Day 2, and he entered the final table in fourth place with about 25 big blinds. And what a final table it was. Hankins was flanked by four more Circuit ring winners, including Scott Cooper, Michael Sanders, Sohale Khalili, and Nick Verderamo, who was fresh off a victory in the series' opening event.

Cooper is the one who ended up heads-up against Hankins at the end of the day, and the table was tipped heavily toward Hankins when the duel began. Just a few hands in, Cooper took his stand with king-jack, Hankins put him at risk with nine-ten suited, and a nine on the turn earned the latter another photo session with a gold ring.

One of the true success stories of the WSOP Circuit, Hankins has earned well over \$600,000 on the traveling tour.

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Event #8 was the eighth of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 no-limit hold'em event featured 30-minute levels for the duration, and it drew a field of 140 entries. That attendance generated a prize pool worth \$42,000 which was shared by the final 15 players.

The tournament began Thursday, May 4 at 5 p.m., and Day 1 concluded around 2 a.m. with 11 players remaining at the end of Level 16. Day 2 was held on Friday, May 5 beginning at 3 p.m., and the last hand was dealt shortly after 6 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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