

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

**Season 13**

**Horseshoe Baltimore**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Event #10**

**No-Limit Hold'em Turbo**

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

**Total Entries: 169**

**Prize Pool: \$50,700**

**May 6, 2017**



## **Daniel Pearlman Making All the Right Moves**

**After a near-miss in Cherokee, new tourney pro wins his second ring at Horseshoe Baltimore**

**BALTIMORE, Md. (May 7, 2017)** — Daniel Pearlman is brand new to the life of a traveling tournament professional, but the lifestyle is treating him just fine so far.

A couple months after his first Circuit victory — and barely a week after finishing as the runner-up in the Harrah's Cherokee Main Event — Pearlman defeated a field of 169 entries in the \$365 Turbo event at Horseshoe Baltimore to win his second gold ring and the top prize of \$13,689. Perhaps just as importantly, though, the victory was also worth another 50 points in the race to claim one of the limited seats to the WSOP Global Casino Championship, bringing Pearlman into the qualification zone with more than 150 on the season.

The champ is a 43-year-old professional poker player from South Florida (by way of the Bronx and New Jersey). He has four children, and he's newly married to his wife, Joyce. Pearlman has been grinding the friendly Florida cash games for about six years, and his hourly win rate was good enough to keep him from even bothering with tournaments too much. Until recently, that is. "I was challenged by a couple people late last year to figure out how to play tournaments," he said. "To take it seriously."

He accepted the challenge.

Pearlman befriended fellow-Floridian John Holley, essentially inviting himself to join Holley for one of his west-coast poker trips. The pair ended up in Las Vegas during the WSOP Circuit stop in February, and Pearlman proceeded to snap off the series' final event, winning his first ring and what was, at the time, his largest tournament payout.

That new personal high-water mark didn't last long, though. Pearlman went on to add Chance Kornuth and Maurice Hawkins to his list of Florida poker mentors along the way, and he followed them and the Circuit to Cherokee in April. Fast forward to the series' final day, and you'd suddenly find him heads-up against Vanessa Truong for the Main Event title.

Truong proved to be too much in that match, and Pearlman was forced to settle for the runner-up consolation prize of nearly \$200,000. There aren't too many cash games in the world where that kind of money changes hands.

But Pearlman apparently wasn't done winning poker tournaments, and he followed the Circuit to its next stop at Horseshoe Baltimore. After bagging up a stack in Day 1A of the Main Event, he had a free day on Sunday to play the \$365 single-day turbo. About 10 hours after it began, he was sitting alone with all the chips on the table, posing for winner's photos for the second time in the span of just a few months.

The victory was the culmination of a remarkable comeback from Pearlman. When there were three players left, he lost a flip with pocket fours against Andrew Phillips' ace-jack to drop to leave himself with just 50,000 of the 1.69 million chips in play — barely two big blinds at the time. Undeterred, though, Pearlman doubled right back up, then doubled again, then again, and he was suddenly back in contention for the chip lead.

Justin Cooke lost a big flip of his own to exit in third place, setting up a heads-up match between Pearlman and Phillips. Apart from one small double-up, the match was heavily lopsided in Pearlman's favor, and it wasn't long before he polished off the rest of Phillips' stack to score the win.

The final hand of the match provided a fitting end to an event in which it seemed Pearlman could simply not be stopped. Phillips took his stand with seven-eight and out-flopped Pearlman's ace-king on a ten-eight-six flop, two cards from doubling back into contention. Pearlman ran down a Broadway straight, though, finding a queen on the turn and a jack on the river to end the match with the nuts.

It's impressive to watch a new tournament player accomplish so much in so little time, but it's been a long time coming for Pearlman. "It's always been a dream of mine," he said regarding tournament success. "But now that I've made some adjustments, got some help from Chance, John, Maurice — I surround myself with people better than me. I've changed my mindset and my philosophy, and it's been working really well."

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Event #10 was the 10th of 12 gold ring events on the WSOP Circuit schedule at Horseshoe Baltimore. The \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Turbo event drew a field of 169 entries, generating a prize pool worth \$50,700. The final 18 players finished in the money.

The tournament was essentially held from start to finish on Saturday, May 6, beginning at 4 p.m. The last hand was dealt around 3 a.m. the following morning.

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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](#), the official ring supplier of the 2016/2017 WSOP Circuit season.

For more information about the WSOP Circuit, follow us on Twitter at [@WSOP](#) or visit [WSOP.com](#).

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