



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop: Harrah's Cherokee
Event: No-Limit Hold'em Turbo
Buy-in: \$365

Date: 27 November 2017
Entries: 515
Prizepool: \$154,500

MATT SMITH WINS FIRST RING IN CHEROKEE

Georgia doctor takes down the \$365 one-day Turbo for a \$33k payday

Matt Smith scored a win for the part-time poker players this weekend at Harrah's Cherokee. Smith outlasted a field of 515 entries in the \$365 Turbo, claiming the ring and the top prize of \$33,224. It's his first victory on the WSOP Circuit.

Smith, 45, is an OB-GYN doctor from Dalton, Georgia. The father of three has been playing the game for close to a quarter of a century, and he spent several years grinding online before Black Friday. During that span, he says he had more than one six-figure score, but this result represents his largest in the brick-and-mortar realm.

"I think I played well all day," he said of his performance. "I took a couple bad beats, but I was able to keep accumulating chips." The latter is a key component of profitable tournament play, but Smith realized there were some other forces at work, too. "Caught lucky one or twice," he admitted. "Won a few flips."

He makes it sound pretty easy, but the battle was far from it. At the end of a long day of poker, Smith found himself heads-up against Cory Waaland for the title.

Waaland is a seven-time Circuit winner who's widely regarded as one of the most dangerous players on the traveling tour. He entered the final duel with the chip lead, but it would not hold.

Smith was unaware of the accolades of the man sitting across from the table, and he played like it. He quickly pulled into the lead, then ended the match right around 5 a.m.

"Once I got ahead, I just kept the pressure on," he said after his win. "Chipped away."

Because of his work schedule, Smith mostly plays cash games. He made the weekend trip to Cherokee to play at the Pot-Limit Omaha tables, and he quickly ran up "a few thousand dollars"

in profit. He decided to lock in the win and spend the rest of the day splashing around in a tournament, and the one-day Turbo was the perfect fit.

It ended up being quite the profitable decision, too. Smith turned a few thousand bucks into more than 33 thousand of them by the end of the night.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Matt Smith	Age:	45
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Doctor
Birthplace:	Murray, Ky.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Dalton, Ga.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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