



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Harrah's Cherokee	Date:	29 November 2017
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em 8-Handed	Entries:	592
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$177,600

MIKE NOTARIANNI WINS HIS FIRST RING

Carolina grinder scores one for the home team in Cherokee

John "Mike" Notarianni walked into Harrah's Cherokee on Tuesday with about \$4,500 in career tournament earnings. He walked out 16 hours later with \$39,063 in his pockets. Notarianni took down the \$365 eight-max event, snagging his first WSOP Circuit ring at the end of a long day's work.

Notarianni, 43, is a sales rep from Charlotte, North Carolina. The game of poker is really nothing more than a casual hobby for him. "Amateur player," he described himself. "But I've been playing for years and years. Mostly home games, but I come to Cherokee once in a while."

Despite his modest record, Notarianni has notched cashes at Cherokee in each of the last four years dating back to 2013. This one is by far the largest, though, increasing his total career earnings nearly tenfold. He even took a shot at the WSOP Main Event one year, making it to Day 3 but ultimately falling short of the money.

He didn't fall short of anything this time.

Notarianni's Event #6 got off to a bit of a rough start, though, and he was forced to rebuild after losing about two-thirds of the starting stack during the opening levels.

Rebuild he did. By the time the field was reduced to the final table, Notarianni was essentially tied for the chip lead with Michael Casey. The table contained three previous ring winners, too, including six-timer Mark "Pegasus" Smith.

Notarianni outlasted them all, though, defeating Charlie Dawson in the heads-up match to seal the victory around 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Mike Notarianni	Age:	43
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Business owner
Birthplace:	Alexandria, Va.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Charlotte, NC	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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