



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell Gardens, CA)	Date:	5 December 2017
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em	Entries:	110
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$33,000

SAMUEL LEE WINS \$365 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

Program manager from San Francisco defeats a couple of professionals to win \$9,900 and first ring.

Samuel Lee works full-time in San Francisco, but was putting a lot of work into his poker game when he decided to take a short break from life in the Bay area to travel down to Los Angeles and take a shot at some tournaments.

His recent hard work paid off. He defeated a 110-entry field in the \$365 no-limit hold'em event to win his first ring and \$9,900.

"I've been playing a lot online lately and doing well," said Lee. "I've been playing a lot online lately and doing well and I decided that I was going to take some cash down to play some tournaments. This is the second tournament I've played [since getting here] and I binked it. I think I'm doing okay."

Coming into the tournament's final day Lee was in a virtual tie with ring winners Cory Smith and Sohale Khalili atop the chip counts with four players left. The excitement of being so close to a win and having to battle a couple of talented professionals to get there kept the 41-year-old up the night before.

"I was just mainly excited for, you know, coming in even in chips with two guys that have already won rings," said the program manager originally from Orange, CA. "I felt pretty good. I felt like I was going to have position on the guy who I thought was the best player at the table."

“Obviously, I feel good now and I’m blessed. I’ll just hang out and probably play a few more tournaments.”

Smith hit the rail in fourth, but Lee was forced to go through Khalili heads-up. He started off with the chip lead, but Khalili took it back. It was a see-saw battle that saw Lee retake the chip lead, but after regaining it from another Southern California native, he never let it go.

Lee had high praise for his opponent, but in the moment, he remained calm and optimistic about his chances.

“He’s obviously a professional and knows what he’s doing,” said Lee about Khalili. “I wasn’t worried. I know he’s a good player, but heads-up you got to be careful and pick your spots when they are overly aggressive and try and catch them. Luckily, I caught them.”

He has no plans of leaving his job as a program manager for a tech company, but he has aspirations when it comes to poker. There is a decent chance he becomes a familiar face at other Circuit stops.

“I love the game and lately, I’ve just been studying hard and trying to learn more and get better at it,” said Lee. “I’ve made some cash here and there. Maybe I’ll travel the Circuit a little bit.”

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Samuel Lee

Nationality: American

Birthplace: Orange, CA

Current Residence: San Francisco, CA

Age: 41

Profession: Program Manager

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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