



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw Casino and Resort (Durant, OK)	Date:	6 January 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack	Entries:	1,595
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$478,500

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### ADAM MIRLISS WINS CHOCTAW MONSTER STACK

*Student/Poker pro wins first ring and \$80,136 just a few days before spring semester starts*

Between tuition, room and board, textbooks and some spending money, college can get expensive pretty quick. Adam Mirliss was able to relieve some of that financial pressure just a few days before he starts his spring semester.

The 28-year-old poker pro turned student won the \$365 no-limit hold'em monster stack at Choctaw on Saturday evening. He defeated a field of 1,595 entries and George Huber heads-up to win his first major title, \$80,136 and his first Circuit ring.

"I'm feeling good," said Mirliss. "It's surreal. Really surreal. I've been dreaming about this forever."

Mirliss was born and raised in Dallas, but moved to Florida for his initial attempt at college. He decided college wasn't for him and started grinding full-time on the felt. He's moved all over the country playing poker, but made the decision last year to get his degree.

"I'm a local Dallas guy. Choctaw and Winstar are my home casinos, but I've played everywhere," said Mirliss. "Florida, California Vegas. I've been in Dallas now since April. I've been grinding the home game Circuit and [live games in Casinos], really."

He returned to school last fall and is pursuing his degree at the University of Texas at Dallas. After spending most of his adult life working for himself on the felt, it's not a surprise what route he went with his second attempt at college.

"I'm getting a business degree with a concentration in entrepreneurship," said Mirliss.

Mirliss' poker history is typical for somebody who got involved in the game shortly after the Moneymaker boom, but he didn't always have the support of his loved ones. His parents were never fans of him spending so much time gambling, but they were the first people to come and congratulate him after his victory.

"They hate it," said Mirliss about his parents' opinion about poker. "They hated it forever and thought it was screwing up my life, so this is some good validation. I had a good past couple weeks and showing them I can do it responsibly. A lot of people know that poker is not the easiest game and you got to practice before you can stop losing."

Validation is an appropriate word for Mirliss to use. In many \$365 buy-ins, it wouldn't be, but this wasn't your ordinary \$365 buy-in final table. Mirliss squared off with several players who have an impressive poker resume, including bracelet winner Greg Kolo, 2012 Choctaw Circuit main event champion Abraham Araya, Jason Gooch and Johanssy Joseph.

After making the final table late on Day 2, Mirliss returned on Saturday with five players left on Day 3 with Gooch and Joseph and still in his way.

"It was a tough final table," said Mirliss. "We had a couple banner guys here. The toughest spot was probably Gooch or Joseph, but I ran well and I think I picked my spots right. I got short early on today, but I didn't panic. I just built back up."

It all worked out for Mirliss on Saturday. He's going back to school in order to give himself options if he wants to leave poker, but his immediate ambitions are on the felt.

"It's a start," said Mirliss. "I still want a bracelet, but we'll start with a ring."

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Adam Mirliss  
Nationality: American  
Birthplace: Dallas, TX  
Current Residence: Dallas, TX

Age: 28  
Profession: Student/Poker Player  
WSOP Bracelets: 0  
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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