



WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop: Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell
Gardens, CA)
Event: Omaha Hi-Lo
Buy-in: \$580

Date: 8 March 2018
Entries: 108
Prizepool: \$32,400

ARI ENGEL WINS NINTH RING IN \$365 OMAHA HI-LO

Engel moves into a four-way tie for second on the all-time ring leaderboard uncharacteristic mixed game victory.

On Thursday evening, Ari Engel added another title to an already crowded trophy case as well as another reason why he is one of the most successful players in the history of the World Series of Poker Circuit.

Engel defeated 108 entries to win \$9,370 and his ninth Circuit ring in the \$365 Omaha Hi-Lo event on Thursday night at the Bicycle Hotel and Casino. The milestone victory moves him into a four-way tie with Robert Hankins, Alex Masek and Josh Reichard for second on the all-time ring list.

Engel now sits one ring behind Maurice Hawkins and Valentin Vornicu, who sit tied atop the all-time list with 10 each. Engel isn't consumed with overtaking them for the lead, but he likes the idea of doing it for ancillary reasons.

He wants to be able to achieve that, while still maintaining some semblance of balance in his life, at least regarding poker tournaments.

"It's good to have non-monetary goals also," said Engel. "It helps with motivation and things like that when I'm grinding all the time. It's definitely something that I look at and I would love to chase the, but it's a balance because there are always so many tournaments running. I don't want to play to many lower buy-in stuff, but I don't want to play to many higher buy-in stuff. I want to find the right mix."

The long-time poker pro is known for his prowess and ultra-aggressive style in no-limit hold'em. A win in a limit mixed game is uncommon for Engel. He has experience in the four-

card variant of poker, but he'll be the first one to tell you that his limit game needs improvement.

"I play big bet Omaha hi-lo online, pot-limit and no-limit, but I limit I suck at and I'm not very good at and I don't play very much," said Engel. "But I have a couple World Series cashes playing the bigger fields and some softer events. I'll throw around a HORSE or a limit Omaha hi-lo."

The Las Vegas resident is known for the high volume of tournaments that he'll play in a given time frame. By playing a mass quantity of poker, he feels that even though it's a small percentage of his time messing around in other games, it's still more than most play it.

"I just always mess around in my non-major games," said Engel. "You know, I'm playing so much poker that even if I'm just playing 10 percent of my time with other games, that's like as much time as other people will play."

Aside from being known for his aggressive play at the table and his dedication putting in his time at the table, he's also known in the poker community for his travel prowess. He has a reputation for knowing all the loopholes and tricks in the travel industry that will save tournament pros a lot of time and money.

Engel, however, would want his legacy to reflect his achievements on the table.

"I don't really have a desire to be known for anything," said Engel. "The more success I have, the better off it is. I guess I would like to be known for winning."

Not only did he win the first of two non-hold'em events on the schedule at the Bike, but he did it at a very talented final table. Among the final nine players, there were 22 rings and two bracelets. Aside from Engel, there was two-time bracelet winner in Omaha hi-lo Frankie O'Dell, the aforementioned Vornicu and actor James Woods.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Ari Engel

Nationality: American

Birthplace: Toronto, ON, CA

Current Residence: Las Vegas, NV

Age: 34

Profession: Professional Poker Player

WSOP Bracelets: 0

Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 8

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