WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18
EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Horseshoe Baltimore		Date:	3 May 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em		Entries:	170
Buy-in:	$580		Prizepool:	$85,000

Ryan "The Janitor" Phan Finally Cleans One Up by Winning Event #7 at the Horseshoe Baltimore

For the last few years, Ryan Phan has been a staple on the World Series of Poker Circuit with much success, but he's always been a bridesmaid, until now.

Since his breakout performance in the 2016 World Series of Poker Circuit Council Bluffs Main Event, Ryan Phan has been putting up results on the circuit. Phan came runner up to Maurice Hawkins in that event, locking up a cash of $69,962 and that would start Phan's streak of good runs with no victories. It wasn't until now that Phan was finally able to lock up a win, defeating Justin Harvell for the title in Event #7 at Horseshoe Baltimore Circuit stop. In total, Phan made seven final tables without being able to close one out.

"I'm kind of numb right now to be honest," Phan said. "Because I've always been so close and I finally got that monkey off my back. I felt like it was impossible to win."

Phan said that he's only been playing tournaments for a few years, but he's been a cash game player for longer than that and says that he's still in the process of learning, despite all the success he's had on the circuit.

"I've come close to a six-figure win multiple times, and had the chip lead, but I just run bad towards the end so I couldn't get it done," Phan said. "But today I did it. I played great. I took it seriously. And I did it."

Phan came into this final table as the shortest stack, but thought from the start that he was definitely one of the strongest players left.

"At the final table, I already knew that me Chris Meyers and Justin [Harvell] were the three best players remaining," Phan explained. "I had a feeling that we were going to be the last three. And when there was three left we were all even in chips. They are both great players. They are very strong. But I was running well towards the end. I didn't make any mistakes."

The heads up match between Phan and Harvell was intense, with the chip lead exchanging hands multiple times and the two players going at it. Phan described the match as "a dogfight," and he was finding it hard to gain traction against Harvell. That's when Phan made a shift. He walked out of the room during a color-up break, grabbed a beer, then went back to his game of talking.

"He was very composed," Phan said. "So I tried to get him off his game and tried to talk to him. I could see that he's visually frustrated, so I kept at it."

For Phan, the pivotal moment came just after that, when he flopped a set of fours on a king-high board and Harvell shoved the flop with ace-high.

"I had a very strong hand so I was trying to be deceptive," he explained. "And I min-raised him, so that maybe he would put me on a draw or a weaker king. He moved all in and I had a set. That was the key hand for the win. I think that's why he made that mistake with the ace-five hand. Because of my talking game."

Phan says his next goal is to lock up a World Series of Poker bracelet or to land a six figure cash this summer. For his victory in Event #7: $580 No-Limit Hold'em, Phan takes home $22,950 and his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Ryan Phan   Age: 34
Nationality: USA   Profession: Poker Professional
Birthplace: Vietnam   WSOP Bracelets: 0
Current Residence: Omaha, NE   Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

DIRECT LINKS

FULL RESULTS
RYAN PHAN'S OFFICIAL WSOP PLAYER PROFILE
OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO