



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2017-18 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Horseshoe Baltimore	Date:	7 May 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Turbo	Entries:	149
Buy-in:	\$365	Prizepool:	\$44,700

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### **After Several Recent Final Tables Eric Salazar Closes One Out to Capture his First Circuit Title**

*Just a few months ago, Eric Salazar had his back against the wall, but now, he's made a full turn around, with a pile of results to show for it and a Circuit ring.*

In the final event of the Horseshoe Baltimore Circuit stop, Event #12: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Double Stack Turbo, Eric Salazar outlasted a field of 149 entrants to take down his first World Series of Poker ring. Salazar had already been having an astounding month, making four final tables in that period.

"It feels really good to finally get it done," Salazar said. "This is our fourth FT in the last few weeks, between Cherokee and here. We have an eighth, a fifth, a third. And we finally get it done. It feels really great."

It was just a few months ago that Eric Salazar was put in a tight position after taking a big hit in a cash game. A spot that he said, his backer helped him get out of.

"I'm just so thankful for my backer," Salazar said. "Two and a half months ago, I called him and I said 'Dude, I'm f\*\*\*ed up.' Which I was at the time. I took a really big *L* in a big PLO game back home. So I asked him if he could help me out. He brought me on a few stops."

That's when Salazar met Blake Whittington, another pro grinding the circuit. The two became fast friends and Salazar attributes a lot of his recent success to Whittington as well as Matthew Higgins.

“They have helped me such an insane amount,” Salazar said about the two. “Having him and Matt [Higgins]. We have a thread. We talk about almost every hand that happens. He’s been doing just amazing coaching. It’s improved my game so much. Obviously, I’m showing results. We’ve been pretty much together every day. And it’s just improved me so much.”

Across the room, Salazar looks at Blake Whittington, who at the time was heads up in Event #11: \$3,250 No-Limit Hold’em High Roller, playing heads up for \$49,950.

“We went from having our backs against the wall to this,” Salazar continued. “This is just amazing.”

For Salazar one of the benefits of being backed has come in the form of ammunition. Having enough to buy into these tournaments has helped take some of the stress of variance away from him.

“Having the volume and having somebody that’s going to back me helped me so much,” he explained. “I would go to Cherokee and be there with just two bullets for the re-entry or something. And just being able to go to these last couple stops with ammo just helps out so much. It takes out the stress and helps me play so much better.”

With his win in Event #12, Eric Salazar takes home \$12,516 and his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Eric Salazar	Age:	26
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	Houston, TX	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Greensboro, NC	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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