



WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell Gardens, CA)	Date:	6 December 2018
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack	Entries:	1,050
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$471,790

ROBERT NATIVIDAD WINS \$400 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM MONSTER STACK

After a decade away from the game for his family, Southern California engineer returns to the game and scores first ring and \$84,445

Robert Natividad is a dedicated family man. Over a decade ago, the 41-year-old engineer and father was playing a lot of poker. He was doing well, but he wasn't seeing enough of his children.

In an effort to watch his kids grow up and be a better father, he decided to give up poker. He spent more than a decade away from the game before making his return to tournament poker earlier this year.

After just a handful of poker tournaments since his return, he's already taken down a tournament and earned his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring. He defeated a massive 1,050-entry field and collected \$84,445 in the \$400 no-limit hold'em monster stack event.

"I just quit. For like 10 years," said Natividad about his hiatus. "It felt like I was cheating on my kids, you know? I tried for like a year or so and I couldn't do it. They're in high school now, so I decided to come back. All my buddies were like 'Why aren't you playing? It's easier than before.'"

His friends were wrong. It wasn't easier than it was before, but it hasn't stopped Natividad from succeeding. He noticed the game has made some significant changes since the last time he was playing on a regular basis.

“Oh, it’s a definite, definite change from before,” said Natividad. “I used to play with like all the old school guys. The guys I used to play with are all super successful.”

Natividad bested one of the tougher final tables of the series thus far. With a final table that featured top pro Jesse Yaginuma, Los Angeles tournament regulars Nick Phoenix and Bruce Kramer, as well as film producer Randall Emmett, Natividad didn’t have an easy path to his first title.

He was in the middle of the pack at the outset of the final table, but after winning a key flip against Emmett, it was off to the races.

“I started off short and then I’m just waiting for spots, basically,” said Natividad. “I got lucky and won a flip against Randall with two nines against ace-king ... So, I won that and it was all good from there. Once I had chips I was able to play.”

Event though Natividad’s kids are older and he plans on playing again, he plans on sticking mostly to tournament stops in the pacific time zones. He’ll become a more regular face in Southern California and Las Vegas poker tournaments.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Robert Natividad
Nationality: American
Birthplace: Philippines
Current Residence: Cerritos, CA

Age: 41
Profession: Engineer
WSOP Bracelets: 0
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 0

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