



WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Bicycle Hotel and Casino (Bell Gardens, CA)	Date:	7 December 2018
Event:	Omaha Hi-Lo	Entries:	90
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$29,700

FRANKIE O'DELL WINS \$400 OMAHA HI-LO

Veteran poker pro continues dominance in Omaha hi-lo with \$9,505 and his third Circuit ring

To say that Frankie O'Dell is a good Omaha hi-lo player would be an understatement. Before Friday, he already had two World Series of Poker bracelets in the game, and one of his two Circuit rings in the variant.

On Friday, he added a third ring to his collection in what is clearly his best game. The Colorado native defeated a field of 90 entries to win his third ring and \$9,505 in the \$400 Omaha hi-lo.

"A win is always fun," said O'Dell. "It's always fun to come in and get some work in pre-World Series, play a World Series Circuit event. You can get a feel for the structure and a feel of the World Series. It was just really fun today."

O'Dell defeated actress Gina Hecht heads-up to take down the title. It was a bittersweet victory for the veteran of the poker world. The two have become close friends playing mixed games together over the years. Before play began, the two shared a hug and wished each other 'Good luck.'

"The person I got heads-up with today, Gina. I really adore her," said O'Dell. "I had a great time playing her. It was the first opponent I played heads-up that I actually cared for. She's just a great person that I met playing poker. She just has great karma."

The bottom line was that they were both competing and someone had to win. Hecht held a lead for a short time, but O'Dell slowly grinded her stack down and opened up a lead that she just couldn't come back from.

“It’s a competition at the end of the day and it’s only a game,” said O’Dell. “You buy in and you win or you bust and you leave. So I check it at the door. When I come in to play, I play to win and she plays to win and it was a great match.”

O’Dell has been cashing in World Series events since the early 2000’s. While no-limit hold’em was exploding, O’Dell has stuck to mixed games and specifically Omaha hi-lo.

It’s no secret that no-limit hold’em has evolved as some of the advanced players seek a more advanced, unexploitable strategy. It has caused a dramatic shift in who some consider the best players in the world. That never happened to O’Dell. O’Dell has stayed on top of the Omaha hi-lo community for over a decade.

“It’s always going to cross paths, the styles of play,” said O’Dell. “Like here at the Circuit series, people are going to play for the ring. You’re going to get these Circuit superstars that chase these Circuits and you’re going to get their style. The game always evolves. You have to keep playing it and you have to keep on top of the game.”

O’Dell stays ahead of the curve, but what really keeps him at his best is his continued desire to show up and grind.

“I love to play it and I keep playing it,” said O’Dell when asked why he’s so good at this version of poker. “I see how the game changes and I change with the game. I learn as much as I can as I play and I keep going.”

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name: Frankie O’Dell
Nationality: American
Birthplace: Denver, CO
Current Residence: Denver, CO

Age: 47
Profession: Professional Poker Player
WSOP Bracelets: 2
Previous WSOP Circuit Rings: 2

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