



WSOP CIRCUIT 2018-19 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Thunder Valley (Lincoln, Cal.)	Date:	16 January 2019
Event:	Omaha Hi-Lo 8 or Better	Entries:	101
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$33,330

ERIC ESTOQUE WINS OMAHA HI-LO TITLE

San Jose's Estoque earns first Circuit ring and \$10,000 in Event #6 triumph

San Jose's Eric Estoque had taken some time off from playing poker for personal reasons, but decided to play the event, only to find himself heads-up for the win against one of the most decorated of all Circuit players, 12-time ring winner Valentin Vornicu. A walkover for the more famed player? Not even close. Estoque almost had Vornicu eliminated at one point, then had to watch Vornicu mount a furious comeback before Estoque regained control and closed out the win. Estoque and Valentin chatted to each other during the final table's later stages, according to Estoque, about each wanting other players at the final to help in eliminating the other. Instead, they ended up in a lengthy head-up duel, with Estoque the winner this time.

Estoque, who once worked for a poker-industry magazine, doesn't play as much these days. He now works in a different industry and had stopped playing for a short while before the death of his young son in November 2017. "I just wanted to win, actually," he said. "This was for my kid."

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Eric Estoque	Age:	42
Nationality:	USA	Profession:	Sales
Birthplace:	Philippines	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	San Jose, Cal.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	1

DIRECT LINKS

[FULL RESULTS](#)

[ERIC ESTOQUE'S OFFICIAL WSOP PLAYER PROFILE](#)

[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)