



WSOP CIRCUIT 2019-20 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	3 November 2019
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em (2 Flights)	Entries:	898
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$296,340

NEIL VOLASKI TOPS MULTI-FLIGHT RING EVENT

Choctaw regular rakes in big win for first gold ring.

After a handful of close calls in the past, Neil Volaski finally raked in \$53,796 and his first World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring Sunday evening. The 47-year-old Mortgage Banker successfully topped a sizable field of 898 players in Event #3: \$400 No-Limit Hold'em (2 Flights) at his regular casino stomping grounds, Choctaw Durant.

Ever since moving to Texas for work, Volaski has frequented the Oklahoma property and through numerous tournament series has amassed a network of connections.

"I came here nine years ago. I've met so many people. They're all my friends now," expressed Volaski. "They really run a great tournament here. They've got some good people working here."

The New York native has made some Circuit final tables in the past, including a near miss where his lack of experience may have shown.

"I've had my opportunities in the past and I've probably made mistakes that I shouldn't have when I played just because it was the first time being there," Volaski stated. "It was a turbo and it was like two in the morning and I had to go to work the next day and I just made a mistake that I should have never made. It hurt."

That runner-up occurrence happened in January of 2018. Almost two years later and Volaski went on a run that would lead him to another shot at glory.

Volaski made it through Day 1A with a middle-of-the-pack stack, giving him a day of rest before the restart Sunday afternoon. On Day 2, he cruised all the way to heads-up action against a familiar opponent, gold ring winner Chad Smith.

“I’ve played with Chad before and he’s a really good player,” said Volaski. “Today, when I was heads up and I had a 2-1 chip lead I knew it was goanna happen.”

Although Smith was a formidable opponent, Volaski was prepared for the opportunity. The father of two proceeded with poise and ultimately scooped the final pot with pocket aces.

“You know, it’s something you try to go after when you play poker. It’s been a lot of years. I’ve had a lot of coaching,” Volaski stated, following his victory.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Neil Volaski	Age:	47
Nationality:	USA	Occupation:	Mortgage Banker
Birthplace:	Brooklyn, N.Y.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Prosper, Tex.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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