



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2019-20 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	2 November 2019
Event:	Pot-Limit Omaha	Entries:	154
Buy-in:	\$600	Prizepool:	\$79,310

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### MATT LAESSIG GRABS 1<sup>ST</sup> WSOP GOLD RING

*American Ninja Warrior competitor scores redemption win in Choctaw PLO tourney.*

The World Series of Poker Circuit saw a new champion emerge Saturday evening at Choctaw Durant. It was Matt Laessig scooping up his first gold ring and \$20,773 after topping a 154-entry field in Event #4: \$600 Pot-Limit Omaha.

It was also a personal redemption run for Laessig who placed seventh in the exact same event at the Oklahoma-based Circuit a year prior.

“Came here last year. Did my first Circuit event here last year. Had a blast,” mentioned Laessig. “Final tabled the PLO... Got busted seventh. Couple bad hands in a row and for the last year, I’ve been replaying it in my head.”

Now Laessig can replace that replay with a brand new WSOP milestone reel.

A slow start to the tournament put Laessig at a big deficit early on, but he rebounded to find a Day 2 berth. Perseverance and a bit of luck at the right times carried him to heads-up action against a tough opponent in Jeramy Govert.

“The gentleman I was playing with is a professional poker player of many years who plays PLO and I am not. I am a poker hobbyist. I have a great love for the game,” said Laessig.

Although Govert may have had more PLO experience than Laessig there were many similarities between the two. Both are in their 40s, both had right around \$11,000 in WSOP cashes when the tournament began, and both registered their first WSOP cash in 2007 at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual WSOP.

Only one could walk away as champion though and it was Laessig's day to shine.

The husband and father of three, has enjoyed the game of poker for quite some time. It provides a competitive battleground that he can relate to another exciting pastime of his, American Ninja Warrior.

"There are a lot of comparables: management of adrenaline, focus, putting yourself out there," Laessig drew similarities. "My drive for competition, love of adrenaline, and to challenge myself," he added, alluding to what poker and ANW both satisfy.

Laessig carved out his trip to Choctaw Durant and conquered. Going out a winner, he plans to return to his family and work in Austin, Texas on Monday.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Matt Laessig	Age:	48
Nationality:	USA	Occupation:	Internet Entrepreneur
Birthplace:	Washington D.C.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	Austin, Tex.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

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