



WSOP CIRCUIT 2019-20 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	5 November 2019
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em Double Stack	Entries:	353
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$116,490

JAMES DUKE CAPTURES 1ST WSOP GOLD RING

Longtime poker player revels in gold-ring victory at the Choctaw Durant Circuit series.

With a smile of pure joy, James Duke picked up his first World Series of Poker Circuit gold ring on Tuesday at Choctaw Durant. The Houston, Texas resident defeated a field of 353 entrants, winning \$25,400 along with the golden hardware and adding a first-place finish to his long, notable stat sheet with the WSOP.

The achievement came in Event #7: \$400 No-Limit Hold'em Double Stack, a tournament that took two days to reach a conclusion.

Going into Day 2, 14 players remained and nearly half the chips in play (46%) sat with just two players, 13-time gold ring winner Maurice Hawkins and Jeremy Ross. Duke entered as third in chips but was still a two-to-one dog against the leader.

"I had a great run of cards this whole tournament, particularly when we got to the final table," said Duke "I got queens, kings a couple times, and pocket aces a couple time. It helped me get up my stack."

Bolstered by a heater, Duke chipped up into a contending spot. When the field was cut to four, it was Hawkins, seven-time gold ring winner Andrew Robinson, and gold ring owner Ben Thomas facing off.

Duke ended up busting Hawkins with a made straight draw. Robinson soon followed, leaving Duke and Thomas heads up.

“You know, you just got to go for it,” Duke stated. “When you’re heads up like that it’s a matter of just doing a little dance with the other guy. He was bluffing me a little bit. I was bluffing him.”

The two battled for about two hours. Then, Duke finally took down the fateful all-in pot to grant him gold. The 68-year-old jumped up with excitement once the final card was dealt and shared in revelry with friends on his rail

“It’s just so exciting. I’ve been trying for 14 years to win a damn ring,” Duke said with a laugh following his triumph. “It means a lot to me to win here at Choctaw because the players are so tough here. They’re great players and they’re friendly and the dealers are all great; The floor crew’s great. So, I’m pretty excited about it.”

Duke now lays claim to 40 WSOP cashes for a total of right around \$750,000. A vast majority of that sum (\$614,368) was earned by Duke in 2014 when he took [third place in the Millionaire Maker](#), a tournament that encompassed nearly 8,000 players.

Although the money was nowhere near his largest cash, Duke was happy to capture the coveted gold ring at his favorite, local casino, Choctaw Durant. On top of that, it turned out to be an early birthday present for Duke who will be turning 69 on Thursday.

MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	James Duke	Age:	68
Nationality:	USA	Occupation:	Retired
Current Residence:	Houston, Tex.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
		Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	0

DIRECT LINKS

[FULL RESULTS](#)

[JAMES DUKE’S OFFICIAL WSOP PLAYER PROFILE](#)

[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)