



## WSOP CIRCUIT 2019-20 EVENT REPORT

Circuit Stop:	Choctaw (Durant, Okla.)	Date:	6 January 2020
Event:	No-Limit Hold'em (1 Day)	Entries:	218
Buy-in:	\$400	Prizepool:	\$71,940

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### MAURICE HAWKINS CLAIMS 14<sup>TH</sup> GOLD RING

*Circuit phenom extends all-time ring lead with first-ever Circuit title at Choctaw Durant.*

The World Series of Poker Circuit phenom, Maurice Hawkins, seized yet another title on Monday. Hawkins cruised to victory in Event #5: \$400 No-Limit Hold'em (1 Day), which encompassed a field of 218 entries and finished in under 12 hours.

The achievement granted Hawkins with an unprecedented 14th WSOP gold ring, putting him two rings ahead of Valentin Vornicu (12) and Josh Reichard (12). Along with extending his all-time ring lead, Hawkins banks \$16,898 and 50 Casino Championship points.

"Feels good. Feel like I got my mojo back," Hawkins divulged. "Feels good to know that the beginning of the year is going to end like it should, which means, that when you start the year off winning, it only can get better. It's time to go up."

Hawkins has recorded Circuit titles at more than a few casino locations. However, this was his first-ever gold ring obtained at Choctaw Durant. The Florida resident only began attending the Oklahoma-based this season (2019/20).

Being a turbo-style, one-day tournament, Event #6 hastily ran its course. Around the time there were only two tables remaining is when Hawkins really took off.

"I was just kind of sitting there, got around 25 bigs, and then it was like poker time; 'Let's do this; Let's make some things happen,'" Hawkins recounted.

The 39-year-old had hauled in over one million in chips by the time a redraw to one table was conducted. Majority of his opponents sat with stacks of less than 300,000.

Hawkins' dominant chip lead going into the final table provided smooth sailing into the heads-up finale. There, he was met by another great, seven-time gold ring winner Andy Robinson who Hawkins has encountered before.

"We've been playing some pots the last two days. I would probably say he is one of the best players here," said Hawkins. "It's no shock that every time I get to a final table, Andy Robinson is at the final table."

Robinson is a local pro out of Texas and has amassed plenty of WSOP prowess himself over the years. The two players had encountered each other before at a final table during the previous Choctaw Circuit in November where Hawkins finished 4<sup>th</sup> and Robinson 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This time around, they were heads-up with WSOP gold on the line. Robinson did render himself a fighting stack before facing Hawkins' massive lead. However, Hawkins buckled down against his tough opponent and scooped the final pot with ace-king, which presented a cooler to Robinson's ace-queen.

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## MEET THE LATEST WSOP CIRCUIT RING WINNER

Name:	Maurice Hawkins	Age:	39
Nationality:	USA	Occupation:	Poker Pro
Birthplace:	St. Louis, Mo.	WSOP Bracelets:	0
Current Residence:	West Palm Beach, Fla.	Previous WSOP Circuit Rings:	13

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[OFFICIAL WINNER PHOTO](#)